

A Room of Her Own FOUNDATION



AROHO Day Conference for Women Writers 2012

Saturday, October 6, in Austin, Texas

Join us for the second biennial conference hosted by the Texas women of A Room of Her Own (AROHO), an organization that provides resources and support for women writers across the U.S. Founded in 2000, AROHO provides the \$50,000 Gift of Freedom

grant to a U.S. woman author to complete a book project. The Texas women of AROHO are proud to help support this organization through proceeds from this one-of-a-kind conference.

Conference Presenters

Mary Johnson

(Keynote Speaker)



Mary Johnson is the author of *An Unquenchable Thirst*, named one of the best books of 2011 by *Kirkus Review*. At age nineteen, Mary joined the Missionaries of Charity, also known as the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She spent fifteen of her twenty years as a sister in

Rome, where she lived and worked with Mother Teresa. After leaving the sisters in 1997, she completed a BA in English at Lamar University and an MFA in Creative Writing at Goddard College. Mary's need for moral and financial support while writing her memoir was the catalyst that called AROHO into being. Mary's work has been widely featured in *O, the Oprah Magazine*, *Salon.com*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Los Angeles Times*, National Public Radio, and "The Rosie Show," among others. Mary is Creative Director of AROHO Retreats.

Writing Beyond Your Senses AM1MARJ

"Write through your senses" is often good advice. But what does a writer do when the people she writes about or the characters she invents have experiences that seem to transcend the senses?

We'll explore several examples from religious texts, short stories, poetry, memoir, and science fiction. After discussing strategies, we'll do some writing of our own. Suitable for writers of poetry or prose, fiction or nonfiction.

Liz Belile



Liz Belile is a writer, performer, mother and yoga teacher. She is the author of the poetry and prose collection *Polishing the Bayonet*, but may be best known as contributor and editor of the anthology *Gynomite: Fearless, Feminist Porn*, and as creator and producer of a spoken

word series and coproducer of a CD recording by the same name. Liz has practiced hatha yoga since 1991 and taught it since 1999. She leads erotica writing and spoken word workshops, and teaches "yoga for fertility" classes for women.

Lit from Within: Breathe Move Write PM2LIZB

According to yoga philosophy, there is a point from which all creation emerges and into which it dissolves, the *bindu*. In this experimental, experiential workshop, we will move, chant, speak out loud, and collaborate using yoga to access the body as a starting and ending point for writing. Using the breath, and movement as well as stillness, we will write spontaneous poetry and prose and discuss how spiritual discipline can inform the writing discipline.

Writers with practices of meditation, yoga, kung fu, etc., are encouraged to attend, as are all writers or practitioners hoping to experiment with a practice as support or ignition for writing. No yoga experience is necessary. Please wear comfortable clothes.

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Sheila Black



Sheila Black is the author of *House of Bone* and *Love/Iraq* (both CW Press) and *Continental Drift* with painter Michele Marcoux (Patriothall, Edinburgh, UK). She co-edited with Jennifer Bartlett and Michael Northen, *Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability* (Cinco Puntos Press). A

third collection *Wen Kroy* is forthcoming from Dream Horse Press. She is a recipient of the 2012 Witter Bynner Fellowship in Poetry, chosen by Philip Levine. She lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she is Executive Director of Gemini Ink.

Five Little Poetry Projects: A Craft Workshop AM1SHEB

In this workshop we will cover five elements of the craft of poetry with the aim of helping workshop participants write more vivid and linguistically engaged poems. The craft areas covered will be image, varieties of metaphor, syntax, voice, and tone. Each of these call up and apply different poetic powers, and through short applied exercises we will work together to arrive at strategies and approaches that increase the immediacy and force of each participant's poems. We will write in the workshop and share our writing. Bring paper and pencil and prepare to play!

Donna Johnson



Donna M. Johnson is the author of *Holy Ghost Girl*, a critically acclaimed memoir that conjures a rich world in which faith and human frailty share a surprising and humorous coexistence. *Holy Ghost Girl* was awarded the 2011 Books for Better Life award and the Mayborn Creative Nonfiction Prize as

a manuscript in progress in 2007. Donna has written about religion, family and culture for the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Austin American-Statesman*, *Austin Monthly*, *Huffington Post* and other publications. She lives in Austin with her husband, the poet and author Kirk Wilson.

Memoir: the Two-Way Mirror PM2DONJ

Personal narrative reflects the outer world of events and the inner world of poetic truth. The memoirist's quest is to track how one influences the other. In this workshop we will begin to sift through and organize life events into a narrative arc while discovering the meaning of these events and how they have shaped our consciousness. Each participant will create a StoryLine™ or timeline that marries the outer story with the inner one and serves as a working outline.

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Jennine Krueger



Jennine "Doc" Krueger performs her poetry in competition in numerous venues and events across the U.S., including Women of the World, Southwest Shootout, and Southern Fried Poetry Slam. The lyrical artist has slammed with the Austin Poetry Society, Huston-Tillotson Quiet Storm

Poets, and is one of the original members of Neo-Souldiers. She is a three-time veteran on slam team Killeen Poetry Rhyme or Die. Doc volunteers as a coach for They Speak, a youth poetry slam team in Austin that also competes at the national level. She teaches English and raises her family in Austin, Texas, and is currently at work on a CD and chapbook of her poetry.

From Page to Stage: the Art of Spoken Word PM1JENK

When words join vocal inflection and body language, their combined power sparks a movement of memories. Spoken word artists reimagine the tradition of oral storytelling to co-create personal and political histories with the audience. In this session, we will bring performance pieces to life through a workshop approach and emphasis on the importance of audience. Please bring a sample of work you would like to share, an open mind, and energy!

Ramona Reeves



Ramona Reeves is a recipient of a writer's residency at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, finalist in the *Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest, and recipient of a fellowship for A Room of Her Own foundation's biennial retreat. She completed her MFA in Fiction at New

Mexico State University in 2010. Ramona has taught as a writer-in-residence for Writers in the Schools in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Badgerdog Literary Press in Austin, Texas. Her work has appeared in *Deep South Magazine*, *Puerto del Sol*, *The Ledge* and others. She lives in Austin, Texas.

Journaling the One into Twenty PM1RAMR

Virginia Woolf wrote that a writer's task is "to take one thing and let it stand for twenty." While a journal can be a place to collect clippings, create drawings, or express a singular idea, it can also be a place to seek the twenty. This session focuses on journaling as a revision tool for fiction and other genres. We will take a short, easy walk along Lady Bird Lake and incorporate the natural surroundings into several writing breaks, which will include exercises to heighten sensory awareness as a method of revising character, setting, and

mood. The exercises will endeavor to connect the seemingly unconnected in our quest to make the one thing stand for twenty. Participants will receive a journal and should prepare for the session by having an unfinished story in mind to serve as a focal point for the exercises.

ire'ne lara silva



ire'ne lara silva lives in Austin, Texas. Her work has appeared in various journals and anthologies, most recently *Acentos Review*, *Ginosko Literary Journal*, *Palabra*, and *Yellow Medicine Review*. She is the 2008 recipient of the Gloria Anzaldua Milagro Award, an inaugural

CantoMundo Fellow, and the author of two chapbooks: *ani'mal* and *INDiGENA*. Her first collection of poetry, *furia*, received an Honorable Mention for the 2011 International Latino Book Award in Poetry. Currently, she is co-coordinator for the Flor De Nopal Literary Festival and leads the Voz te Viento discussion series on diabetes, illness, healing, and creativity.

Gritos: On Finding the Sources of Our Voices PM1IRES

While gritos are most often associated with mariachi groups, el Grito de Dolores, or Mexican culture, we will be looking at gritos from another viewpoint—as a way of finding our own deepest personal voice, to ground the creative mind in our bodies, to root the voice in our hearts, and to both release and control emotion in the body and voice. There will be various visualization exercises, a lot of playing with physical stances, a great deal of sound-making experimentation, and a few short writing/art prompts to examine how we perceive our voices. No experience or familiarity with gritos is needed. Please bring a notebook and pen (and optionally: any art supplies you'd like: crayons, colored pencils, glue, construction paper).

Amanda Eyre Ward



Amanda Eyre Ward was born in New York City, and attended Williams College and the University of Montana. She is the author of a short story collection and four novels, most recently *CLOSE YOUR EYES*, which was named one of *Kirkus Reviews'* Best Books of 2011 and awarded *Elle*

Magazine's Best Fiction Book of the Year. Amanda's work has been optioned for film and television and published in fifteen countries. She lives in Austin, Texas, with her family.

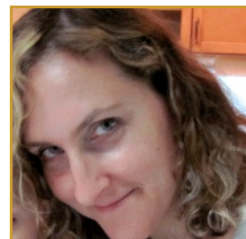
An Introduction to Novel Structure AM1AMAW

Some writers begin writing on page one and find that their novel or nonfiction narrative comes out beautifully structured, one chapter following perfectly after another. This class is

for everyone else. You might have an idea for a novel or nonfiction book, or you might have 600 pages. But if you're wondering how to structure your project and make it as compelling as possible, this class is for you. The class will cover: an introduction to the three-act structure, using note cards to organize your novel, and when to throw away your plan and let the characters lead you. Please bring a one-page description of your novel-in-progress and a copy of your favorite novel.

Debby Wolfensohn

After **Debby Wolfensohn** graduated from New York University,



she created the zine "Satan Wears A Bra." This led to her first staff writing job at the *Austin America-Statesman* and freelance jobs with the *Village Voice*, *Spin*, and others. In 2001, she began collaborating with her brother, Ben Wolfensohn. Their first project was the documentary "Friends

Forever," and their second, "High School Record," appeared at Sundance Film Festival. In 2010, they created and wrote the pilot for "Gigantic," which ran on The N for one season. Recently she wrote the independent feature film "Nowhere" and the short film "Dogslife." Debby lives in Austin with her family where she develops and pitches new shows to network executives from a safe distance.

Writing Great Scenes for TV and Film PM1DEBW

Great scenes are the heart and soul of every successful screenplay. In this workshop, I'll let you in on a few of my favorite tricks for making a scene work and tell you the two most important rules to remember when writing a scene. We'll apply these notes to your scene and work together to polish it. We'll also discuss what really goes on in the world of TV: from the nerve-rattling pitching process to the endless script revisions to the moment you see your name in lights—on a product that often barely resembles your original idea. We'll explore the self-financing route of independent films and festivals. We will watch and discuss clips to serve as inspiration...or dire warning. Come to the workshop with a draft of your TV or film scene already written: 3–5 pages, 2–3 characters please.

Discussion Panel: Literary Publishing PM2DISP

This session will feature a panel of experienced literary editors, including a seasoned literary editor and editors from Texas-based literary journals *Bat City Review* and *Gulf Coast Journal*. In a moderated discussion, we'll explore topics such as what editors look for when they choose work for publication, how they go about polishing a manuscript, and more. An audience Q & A will follow the moderated discussion; bring your questions!

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Registration

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| 7:45 to 8:45 AM | Registration (Casa De Luz café open for breakfast) | | | |
| 9:00 to 9:45 AM | Mary Johnson Keynote Speech | | | |
| 10:00 to 11:45 AM AM 1 Session | Mary Johnson <i>Writing Beyond Your Senses</i> AM1MARJ | Sheila Black <i>Five Little Poetry Projects: A Craft Workshop</i> AM1SHEB | Amanda Eyre Ward <i>An Introduction to Novel Structure</i> AM1AMAW | |
| 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM | Lunch Break (Casa De Luz café open for lunch) | | | |
| 1:00 to 2:45 PM PM 1 Session | ire'ne lara silva <i>Gritos: On Finding the Sources of Our Voices</i> PM1IRES | Debby Wolfensohn <i>Writing Great Scenes for TV and Film</i> PM1DEBW | Jennine Krueger <i>From Page to Stage: the Art of Spoken Word</i> PM1JENK | Ramona Reeves <i>Journaling the One into Twenty</i> PM1RAMR |
| 3:00 to 4:45 PM PM 2 Session | Discussion Panel: <i>Literary Publishing</i> PM2DISP | Donna Johnson <i>Memoir: the Two-Way Mirror</i> PM2DONJ | Liz Belile <i>Lit from Within: Breathe Move Write</i> PM2LIZB | |
| 7:15 to 9:00 PM | Evening Reading (Off-campus at Book Woman book store) | | | |

Please read through this information carefully before registering.

Conference Check-In will be from 8:00–9:00 a.m. in the courtyard. The Keynote address will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium.

The registration fee of \$110 includes:

- Three workshop sessions (your choice of one session from each time slot)
- Keynote Address

- Admission to the evening reading at BookWoman
- Use of the beautiful Casa de Luz facility on the day of the Conference from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Due to space limitations, we regret that we will not be able to accommodate requests for session changes once the conference begins.

Cancellations before September 29, 2012, will receive a 100% refund. No refunds will be issued after this date; however, you may send another woman in your place.

My Session Choices

For each session time slot, please enter the code that appears in bold under the desired presenter/topic. For example, for presenter Mary Johnson and topic Writing Beyond Your Senses, enter **AM1MARJ**.

AM I Session _____ **PM I Session** _____ **PM II Session** _____

To Pay by Check:

Make Checks Payable to: AROHO
Mail checks and registration forms to:
"AROHO Day Conference 2012"
AROHO
PO Box 778
Placitas, NM 87043-0778

To Pay By Credit Card / Via Pay Pal:

Go to: www.aroho.org/tex and follow instructions under "Ready to Register?"

COST: \$110

JOIN US for the evening reading at **Book Woman** featuring readings by our conference session leaders.

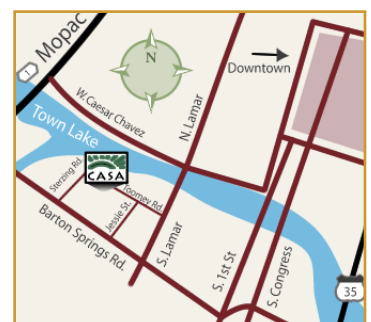
book-woman

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