



Writer's Retreat: February 27-March 2, 2023 Schedule and Workshops

Monday, February 27, 2023

Participation in any activity throughout the retreat is optional.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Check-In
6:15 p.m.	Welcome Gathering
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Keynote Session
	<i>Writing as a Pleasurable Revolution: Monica Prince</i>
9:00 p.m.	Compline

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Meditation & Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Workshops - Session A
	<i>Say It With Your Chest: An All Genres Performance Workshop</i> Monica Prince
	<i>How to Write a Key Scene</i> , John DeDakis
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Free Time (<i>Co-Working Lounge Open</i>) <i>Writing consultation slots available with John DeDakis, by sign-up</i>
5:00 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Share Session
8:30 p.m.	Compline

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Meditation & Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Workshops - Session B
	<i>The Intersection of Setting and Story</i> , Ariele Sieling
	<i>Crafting Your Memoir</i> , Cara Achterberg
12:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>Table Talk Option: Giving and Receiving Constructive Feedback</i> , Kari Martindale
1:00 p.m.	Free Time (<i>Co-Working Lounge Open</i>) Guided Walk (45-60 minutes)
5:00 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Sharing Session
8:30 p.m.	Compline

Thursday, March 2, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Meditation & Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Workshops - Session C
	<i>Fostering an Authentic Voice</i> , Ariele Sieling
	<i>Get Published!</i> , Cara Achterberg
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Departure

FACILITATORS



Monica Prince teaches activist and performance writing and serves as Director of Africana Studies at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. She is the author of *How to Exterminate the Black Woman: A Choreopoem*, *Instructions for Temporary Survival*, and *Letters from the Other Woman*. She is the managing editor of Santa Fe Writers Project and the co-author of the suffrage play, *Pageant of Agitating Women*, with Anna Andes. Her work appears in *Wildness*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Texas Review*, *The Rumpus*, *MadCap Review*, *American Poetry Journal*, and elsewhere. Her next choreopoem, *Roadmap*, will be published by SFWP in July of 2023.

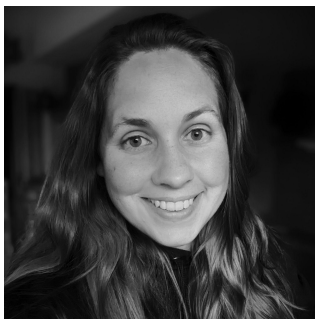


Novelist and writing coach **John DeDakis** [pronounced: dee-DAY-kiss] is a former editor on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer." DeDakis is the author of five mystery-suspense-thriller novels.

His fourth novel, *Bullet in the Chamber*, is the winner of Reviewers Choice, Foreword INDIES, and Feathered Quill book awards. In his most recent novel, *Fake*, protagonist Lark Chadwick is a White House correspondent trying to walk the line between personal feelings and dispassionate objectivity in the era of "fake news" and #MeToo. *Fake* earned Honorable Mention for the Reviewers Choice Award and was a Finalist for two book awards: Killer Nashville's Silver Falchion, and the CLUE Award sponsored by the Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBA).

DeDakis, a former White House correspondent, is a manuscript editor, and regularly teaches novel writing online and at literary centers, writers' conferences, and bookstores around the country and abroad.

DeDakis is also a jazz drummer, and the host of the live video podcast "One-to-One with John DeDakis" on Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.



Arielle Sieling Arielle Sieling is a science fiction and fantasy writer who enjoys books, cats, and trees. She has over thirty books published and has numerous short stories published in a variety of anthologies and magazines. She is also the author of the book series for authors titled *Writer's Reach*, which includes: *How To Build A Book Marketing Strategy*, *The Intersection of Setting and Story*, and *Building An Author Brand That Suits You*. She lives in southern Pennsylvania with her spouse, enormous Great Pyrenees dog, and two cats. You can find out more about her at www.ariesieling.com or follow her on Instagram or BookBub @ariesieling.



Cara Sue Achterberg is the author of seven books, a creative writing teacher, and a shelter dog advocate. Her novel, *Blind Turn*, was a Reader’s Choice Silver Medal winner and recently won the Women’s Fiction category of the American Writing Awards. Her memoir, *Another Good Dog: One Family and Fifty Foster Dogs* was a People magazine ‘people’s pick’ and featured on the Hallmark Channel’s Home & Family Show. Cara is the cofounder of Who Will Let the Dogs Out, a nonprofit initiative to raise awareness and resources for shelter dogs. Cara lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her husband, three rescue dogs, and a rotating cast of foster dogs and cats. For more information visit CaraWrites.com. Achterberg helped lead the first ever Claggett Writer’s Retreat, and we are thrilled to have her

back again in 2023!



Writer's Retreat: February 27-March 2, 2023

Keynote presentations, guided conversation, and workshop and sharing sessions will be offered throughout the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Participants are encouraged to attend sessions or take advantage of quiet time apart to enjoy writing. Participation in any activity throughout the retreat is optional.

CO-WORKING LOUNGE - Open & Available 24-Hours a Day

Bring your preferred writing tools to the Blue Ridge Dining Room to work in a communal atmosphere! The co-working lounge is designed for those who draw from the energy of others and enjoy working in a shared space. Coffee and cold beverages will be available throughout the day in Sugarloaf Dining Hall.

KEYNOTE & CONVERSATION - Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.

Monica Prince: *“Writing as a Pleasurable Revolution”*

In the words of so many activists, pleasure is our birthright. But the world often tries to deny us this through stress, oppression, and a culture of busyness. Writers often feel too overwhelmed to believe their writing matters, that their languages and stories have power. In this keynote, Monica Prince demonstrates how writing begets pleasure and vice versa. Using examples of historical writing revolutions and present strategies for harm reduction, Prince emphasizes the ways we can use writing as catharsis, spiritual connection, and revolution to build a world of empathy, justice, and pleasure—especially now that we need it most.

WORKSHOPS SESSION A - Tuesday, February 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Say it With Your Chest: An All-Genres Performance Workshop, Monica Prince

We all know those writers—the ones who don't project their voices, don't follow the time limit, never look up from their papers. We know their type. But you don't have to be like them! Using performance theory and 19 (!) expert tips, Monica Prince's interactive performance workshop will teach you how to make every reading your best reading.

WORKSHOPS SESSION A, Continued

How to Write a Key Scene, John Dedakis

A key scene is an essential building block in any work of fiction. In this session, you'll learn tips and strategies for making the scene you see in your head come alive on the page so that your reader is compelled to keep turning the pages. Writing exercises will give class members a hands-on feel for how to add texture, dynamism, and drama to a story. The session also provides practical, hands-on guidance about the rewriting process. An added benefit: giving and receiving critical feedback.

SHARING SESSIONS - Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to a guided session of reflection and sharing with fellow writers. Come prepared to share: What are you working on? Where could you use support? Where are you stuck? Is there a passage of writing on which you would like feedback? Participants are encouraged to collaborate with their peers to workshop and share ideas.

WORKSHOPS SESSION B - Wednesday, March 1, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The Intersection of Setting and Story, Ariele Sieling

Although setting is one of the least discussed elements of story, it can still make or break a narrative. Writing elegant description can be fun, but it's not always necessary. Similarly, it can be easy to focus on the dialogue and plot, and only bring in setting when you have no other option. So where is the balance and how do we find it? In this workshop, join Ariele Sieling in exploring strategies for crafting a setting with depth and purpose that serves not only as a backdrop for your conflict, but also as an important driver of plot in any genre.

Crafting Your Memoir, Cara Sue Achterberg

Learn how to get your story on the page, mining your memories for nuggets that not only entertain, but share universal truths. Memoir writing is not for the faint of heart—it requires bravery and creativity, but will reward you with new avenues to your soul. Bring a notebook and pen as we explore the story only you can tell.

Participants currently working on memoir projects are invited (but not required) to bring a sample of their work--up to 1000 words and/or an outline or synopsis.

WORKSHOPS SESSION C - Thursday, March 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fostering an Authentic Voice, Ariele Sieling

The term "voice" is a word frequently thrown around by writers. They say it's the thing that makes your writing unique to you. But what exactly is voice? How is it different from style? And how do you find yours? In this workshop, author Ariele Sieling will delve into the different definitions of voice and style, and discuss a variety of strategies for ways that writers can foster their authentic voice through writing.

WORKSHOPS SESSION C, Continued

Get Published!, Cara Sue Achterberg

Explore the various avenues to publication and what's required of each, including blogging, online journals/websites, freelancing, self-publishing, hybrid publishing, and traditionally publishing with small and large presses. Discover your 'brand' and how you can build your 'platform' to position yourself to be published. There are lots of ways to share your writing with the world—the only question is which is best for you?