

The 16th Lewes Creative Writers' Conference

Evening of Readings

Friday, August 18 | 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Jamie J. Brunson, Anne Colwell, Caleb Curtis,
Maribeth Fischer, Allyson Rice, and Billie Travalini

Page | 1 of 5

Conference


Saturday, August 19 | 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM Eastern Time

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:30	Registration Refreshments Book Sales
8:30 – 9:00	Keynote Billie Travalini, Conference Organizer General Remarks Rebecca Lowe, Library Staff
9:15 – 10:45	Session I
11:00 – 12:30	Session II
12:45 – 1:45	Delaware Division of the Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part I: Grants & Opportunities for Artists: Step-by-Step• Part II: Current Recipients of a Delaware Division of the Arts Fellows in Literature will read from their work
2:00 – 3:30	Session III

Conference sponsored by

Lewes Public Library
Delaware Division of Libraries
John and Sally Freeman Foundation
The National League of Pen Women, Diamond State Branch



SESSION I – Select One

9:15 – 10:45 AM

Page | 2 of 5

Never Walk Alone: Thoughts on Collaboration and Writing for the Long-Haul **Maribeth Fischer and Anne Colwell**

Maribeth Fischer and Anne Colwell discuss how collaboration has helped them to keep writing over the years (twenty!) and through many seasons of their lives. They share their experiences of what collaboration can make possible and suggest some ways that other writers can find like-minded collaborators.

Poetry Roundtable (limited to 8 participants)

Caleb Curtis

At this roundtable, participants are encouraged to submit poems they are “stuck” on. Participants will arrive prepared to share their experience with each of the other participants' poems. We will then establish some common language around erasure before experimenting with a number of erasure-based revision methods designed to help us craft decisive and meaningful revisions to work we might have otherwise forsaken.

Prospective participants are asked to email a poem by noon on Saturday, July 15 to btravalini@gmail.com. Notice of acceptance will arrive via email August 1 or before.



SESSION II – Select One

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Page | 3 of 5

Vampire Poems: Formal Experimentation and the Generative Process

Caleb Curtis

In his essay “Deadism,” Kevin Young addresses a particular refrain we hear from time to time: poetry is dead! Young’s response? What if poetry could actually be undead? “A vampire poetry that will live forever, sexy and dangerous and immortal, shape-shifting when necessary.” In this session, we will study work by Jericho Brown, Diane Seuss, Mary Ruefle, and others that illustrates some of the formal shape shifting the field of poetry has seen recently, while also taking time to understand its potential impact on our own generative processes.

Using Humor to Add Depth to Your Writing

Allyson Rice

You don’t need to be a good “joke teller” to use humor to good effect in your novel. You just need to pay attention to the world around you. Life is a layered experience, full of pathos and humor. Well-placed humor can be an effective way to hook your readers, making them pay attention and want to keep reading. And because humor is heart-opening, when it’s used effectively, your characters become more real: more universal. Whether it’s humor that makes readers laugh out loud, cry through tears of joy, or smile with recognition, well-placed humor bonds readers in a meaningful way, to you, the author.

All Genres Welcome Roundtable (limited to 8 participants)

Jamie Brunson

In this roundtable, you will learn techniques for offering constructive, affirming feedback to others, and yourself. The roundtable is open to all levels of writers from all genres (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, nonfiction, mixed genres). Each writer will have the opportunity to read 5 minutes of their work and then receive feedback.

Prospective participants are asked to email their work or part of it (no longer than five pages) by noon on Saturday, July 15 to btravalini@gmail.com. All styles are welcome. Notice of acceptance will be emailed by August 1 or before.



Lunch Session, Presentation, Readings

12:45 - 1:45 PM

Page | 4 of 5

Delaware Division of the Arts

Part I

Grants & Opportunities for Artists: Step-by-Step Roxanne Stanulis, Program Officer, Artist Services Coordinator, Marketing, Grantee Liaison

In this short session you will learn what services are available to writers, including who's eligible for grants and fellowships and what's involved in the application process. All services are free. Learn how much the DDOA has to offer you and how easy it is to participate. You will also learn what the Delaware Arts Roster can do to get your work in the public eye, increase sales, and open up opportunities for readings, lectures, and more.

Part II

Reading: Current Delaware Division of the Arts Fellows in Literature will read from their work


Joyce Barbagallo, Liz DeJesus, Kim Hoey, Mary-Margaret Pauer, Christopher Penna,
Anne Yarnrough

NOTE:

**Lunch will not be provided, but snacks and beverages will be available
throughout the day.**

Please pack a lunch if you plan to attend the lunchtime session.

A list of local restaurants may be found on the Lewes Chamber of Commerce website (www.leweschamber.com). Due to summer traffic, we strongly encourage you to purchase lunch at an establishment located in Lewes.



SESSION III – Select One

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Page | 5 of 5

How Reading and Writing Flash Fiction Can Make You a Better Writer

Billie Travalini

How do you get readers to care enough about your characters to keep them reading? How can you reveal settings without slowing the plot? The answer is conflict, the magical ingredient that heightens the meaning of every other literary element. At this workshop, we will have a brief discussion about the central role of conflict in today's Twitter-paced world. After this, we will read sample stories and work with prompts to write our own flash fiction story. If time permits, participants will be invited to share their in-process story.

Outlining is the Key to Knowing Where You are Going and How to get There

Jamie J. Brunson

Ever felt like you were writing in circles? After the first wave of inspiration is on the page, do you suddenly need help to find your way to the next line or page? In this workshop, you will learn about “French Scene” outlining. The technique, drawn from the director's playbook, has helped writers of all genres map out scenes that move their writing towards a powerful and page-turning conclusion. Participants are invited to bring a short excerpt of their own work and map out a scene using this popular and much proven technique.

Short or Not-So-Short Stories Roundtable (limited to 8 participants)

Allyson Rice

Like it or not, we live in a time of short attention spans. (I've lost you already, haven't I...) The internet, social media, digital devices, and an infinite supply of distractions have dimmed our ability to focus. Today, it's more important than ever to HOOK READERS QUICKLY. At this Roundtable, we will read and comment on one another's short story or beginning of a not-so-short story, with a focus on how well each story is achieving that initial “hook.”

Perspective participants are asked to submit a maximum of five, double-spaced pages in Times New Roman, 12-point font, by noon on Saturday, July 15 to btravalini@gmail.com. Notice of acceptance will arrive via email August 1 or before. If accepted, you are asked to email your story to your seven fellow participants for comments that point to revision and, ultimately, publication.