LOUISVILLE LITERARY ARTS

### WRITER'S BLOCK FESTIVAL 2023

Workshops



ANGIE ANDRIOT Edit Smarter, Not Harder



THOMAS KNEELAND Poetry as Discovery & Expression of the Self



SARAH MCCARTT-JACKSON Off the Clock: Writing Around Work Hours Working 9 to 5



LYNN SLAUGHTER



**TANYA WHITE** 

Before



SAMAR JOHNSON SPIRIT WRITING



JULIA YOUNGBLOOD Tapping Into Harmonizing Creativity



**RON WHITEHEAD** FEATURED INKY READER



**LOGAN STREET MARKET** SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



KEYNOTE **EMILY** BINGHAM

REGISTER: BIT.LY/2023WBF

Logan Street Market, Louisville, KY 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# Welcome to the 2023 Louisville Literary Arts Writer's Block Festival

#### Find Your Write Life!

Welcome word-loving friends! This year's Writer's Block theme is Find Your Write Life—and the literary line-up is definitely something worth writing about.

The day kicks off with keynote speaker (and Louisville's own) **Emily Bingham**, visiting Honors Faculty Fellow at Bellarmine University. Her essays, articles and reviews have appeared in Vogue, Ohio Valley History, The Journal of Southern History, Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal and New England Review. Her books include My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of An Iconic American Song, Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham, and Mordecai: An Early American Family.

Throughout the day, choose and attend four of eight sessions led by Ron Whitehead, Tanya White, Angie Andriot, Thomas Kneeland, Samar Johnson, Sarah McCartt-Jackson, Lynn Slaughter and Julia Youngblood.

The writers resource fair features publishers, presses, authors, poets, and writing organizations and programs, so please take a moment to stop by.

Thank you for spending time with us today!

Louisville Literary Arts, Inc. Board of Directors

#### **About Louisville Literary Arts**



Since its founding in 2004, Louisville Literary Arts has showcased the varied and unique voices of both local and nationally recognized poets and writers, career as well as up-and-coming talent. We gather audiences for the InKY Reading Series and Writer's Block Festival through a holistic approach to literary styles, genres, and affiliations. Writing workshops, Writers Meet-up gatherings, and community outreach programs welcome writers of all ages and stages of the writing process

to learn, grow, collaborate, and celebrate one another's work.

#### **Stay Connected**

Sign up for our monthly newsletter by visiting our website or contacting our Executive Director, Charliese B. Lewis at charliese@louisvilleliteraryarts.org

Website: www.louisvilleliteraryarts.org

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Twitter: @LouLiteraryArts Instagram: @LouLiteraryArts LinkedIn: Louisville Literary Arts

Board of Advisors: Emily Bingham, Kimberly Crum, Lynnell Edwards, Gill Holland, Erin Keane,

Ian Stansel, and Ron Whitehead

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Executive Director: Charliese Brown Lewis Louisville Literary Arts, Inc. 2240 Taylorsville Road Suite 1, Box 5621 Louisville, KY 40255



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Louisville Literary Arts' with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

### Louisville Literary Arts presents



### **FEATURING**

Angie Andriot

Samar Johnson

Thomas Kneeland

Sarah McCartt-Jackson

Lynn Slaughter

**Tanya White** 

**Ron Whitehead** 

Julia Youngblood



**KEYNOTE:** 

**Emily Bingham** 



SEPT 30 2023 9:30 AM-4:00 PM

# JOIN US

Logan Street Market 1001 Logan Street Louisville, KY 40204



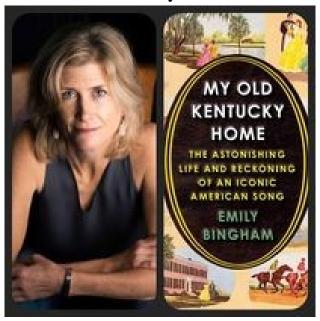


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### Schedule-at-a-Glance Sept. 30, 2023

Time	Speaker	Location	Topic
8:00 am-3 pm	Registration	1st floor	
8:00 am-12 pm	Vendor Set Up	1st floor	
9:00 am-3 pm	Vendor/Resource Fair	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	
9:30 am	Emily Bingham	1st Floor, Main Venue	My Old Kentucky Home
11:00 am	Ron Whitehead	1st Floor, Main Venue	Poetry Reading & Question/Answer session
11:00 am	Tanya White	1st Floor, Art Room	Becoming a Media Mag- net before you Publish
12:00 pm	Lunch-on your own	Logan Street Market Vendors	
1:00 pm	Angie Andriot	1st Floor, Main Venue	Edit Smarter, Not Harder
1:00 pm	Thomas Kneeland	1st Floor, Art Room	Poetry as Discovery & Expression of the Self
2:00 pm	Samar Johnson	1st Floor, Main Venue	Spirit Writing
2:00 pm	Sarah McCartt- Jackson	1st Floor, Art Room	Off the Clock: Writing Around Work Hours 9 to 5
3:00 pm	Lynn Slaughter	1st Floor, Main Venue	Writing Young Adult Fiction 101
3:00 pm	Julia Youngblood	1st Floor, Art Room	Tapping Into Harmonizing Creativity
3:50 pm	Closing Announcement	S	

Our Keynote



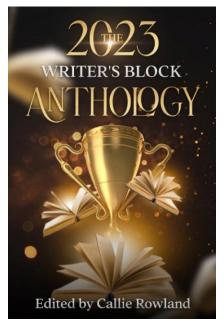


### 2023 Writer's Block Prize Short Story Contest Winner



Sarah Thomas

Sarah is a writer, editor and educator lives in Geneva, Switzerland and Key West, Florida and has had her work published in Catapult, Al Jazeera America, xojane, The Huffington Post, Apogee Journal, Bayou Magazine and Key West Weekly. She is currently finishing a novel. As the first-place winner, Sarah is invited to read at LLA's upcoming Writer's Block Festival. To learn more about Sarah, visit her website at www.sarahthomaswrites.com.



Available on Amazon.com

#### **Session Descriptions**

### Plenary Session Emily Bingham, My Old Kentucky Home 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

How did a minstrel song about the slave trade become a beloved melody, a celebratory anthem, and an integral part of American folklore and culture? Acclaimed historian Emily Bingham's new book, explores the compelling history of Stephen Foster's 1853 "My Old Kentucky Home," which tried to present slavery as carefree while also telling a wrenching story of a man sold to die in the sugarcane fields of the Deep South. The song—for years sung by white men in blackface entertaining white audiences—was a sensation and has been with us ever since.

For almost two centuries, its lyrics and meaning have been protested, altered, mythologized in thousands of performances—from Bing Crosby to Bugs Bunny to John Prine and Prissy in Gone with the Wind—and enshrined as the state song of Kentucky. Every year at the world's most important horse race, the Kentucky Derby, "My Old Kentucky Home" is sung by tens of thousands of nostalgic fans, almost all of them unknowingly conjuring a mythic version of a brutal past.

Bingham, a Louisville-native offers a deeply researched as well as a personal and incisive biography of one of America's most iconic melodies. In this resonant history, we see the enduring ability to forget and deny the realities of slavery, and Bingham, by casting an unflinching eye on our cultural inheritance, leads us to the promise of a reckoning.

### InKY at the Writer's Block Ron Whitehead

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Ron will be doing a special InKY Reading of his award-winning literary pieces followed by a Q & A with the WB Fest audience.

Some of his reviews include:

"Ron Whitehead is a real visionary. Ron Whitehead, out there in Kentucky, is sowing the dragon's teeth of a new heroics. Ron Whitehead is Bodhisattva in Kentucky." --Lawrence Ferlinghetti

"I have long admired Ron Whitehead. He is crazy as nine loons, and his poetry is a dazzling mix of folk wisdom and pure mathematics."

--Hunter S. Thompson

"Ron Whitehead is one of the most exciting poets in America. Poet and literary activist, he is one of the great poets of his generation."

-- Douglas Brinkley

### Becoming a Media Magnet Before You Publish Your Book Tanya White

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

This session will position aspiring authors to become a magnetic for media journalists and radio/TV show hosts & producers even before their books are published by: \*Identifying and crafting a clear message that solves people's problems and aligns with the authors' brand \*Understanding why it is important to present yourself as a subject matter expert \*Defining the importance of building a following who buys into your personal message \*Developing a 30-second pitch that makes you magnetically interesting to media and lands you appearances before you even publish your book.

### Edit Smarter, Not Harder Angie Andriot 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Editing can be tough. Whether you're facing your own sloppy first draft or sitting in a critique group reading someone else's pages, it can be hard to know where to start. This workshop offers a structured approach to editing by presenting a hierarchy of editorial concerns. Following this framework enables you to pinpoint and address the most significant issues in a piece, resulting in more efficient and effective editing. From understanding what 'show don't tell' really means, to using dialogue effectively, you will leave this workshop armed with a comprehensive checklist of five key considerations for enhancing your fiction editing endeavors.

# Poetry as Discovery & Expression of the Self Thomas Kneeland 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Throughout this workshop, we will delve into the power of introspection, the art of self-reflection, and the beauty of crafting poetry that celebrates our unique selves. Through discussions, creative exercises, and collaborative activities, participants will: (1) discover the immense potential of their own voices and learn how to express their thoughts and emotions through the artistry of words, (2) gain fresh insights into the poetic devices and techniques that can bring their narratives to life. By the end of this workshop, participants will leave with written poems and generative prompts for future poetic exploration.

### Spirit Writing Samar Johnson (they/them) 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Named after the writing technique engaged by ancestor Lucille Clifton, this class is designed to walk with the participant as they begin the journey/practice of spirit/somatic writing. The objective of this class is to have participants engage with a more subconscious way of interacting with the creative mind. Doing so will allow for freedom that may be needed when encountering writer's block or lack of inspiration (burnout). After this class, the student should have novice understanding of spirit writing and its origins relating to Black writing/culture, ways to engage in spirit writing, and a writing excerpt with will be completed in class.

# Off the Clock: Writing Around Work Hours Working 9 to 5 Sarah McCartt-Jackson 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Writing when? This workshop is for writers who have jobs outside of writing. Participants will receive kickstarting prompts, motivation techniques, writing routines, and other tools to help you make time when there's no time.

### Writing Young Adult Fiction 101 Lynn Slaughter 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

In this workshop, we'll take a look at what young adult fiction is (Hint: It's not a genre!) and how it differs from middle grade and adult fiction. We'll examine common characteristics, themes, and recommended dos and don'ts. Finally, we'll do some writing to generate ideas for young adult stories.

Goals of the workshop are to provide:

- an introductory overview of young adult (YA) fiction
- some basic tips to successfully tackle writing a YA story
- an opportunity to begin the process of generating a YA story idea Objectives and Hoped for Outcomes:

Participants will gain:

- A better understanding of what young adult fiction is and how it differs from middle grade and adult fiction
- Knowledge about common characteristics and themes of YA fiction
- Understanding of things to avoid doing in writing YA fiction and what to do instead
- An opportunity to do some preliminary writing to generate an idea for a young adult story.

# Tapping Into Harmonizing Creativity Julia Youngblood 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Tapping into and Harmonizing Creativity will use a variety of methods to opening up creative pathways of the mind, body and spirit. The workshop will assist writers who are stuck, unhappy about their writing, or working on authenticity of voice. We will harmonize left and right sides of the brain through bilateral drawing. Participants will learn simple Jin Shin Jyutsu techniques to unblock natural energy flows which will assist with the creative process. Writers will leave the workshop with practical tools they can use to energize themselves, get unstuck and be more productive as writers and creatives.

### Closing Announcements LLA Board Members 3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Louisville Literary Arts Board Members will announce several upcoming events.



Hydra Publications – <a href="hydrapublications.com">hydrapublications.com</a>

### Vendor Fair 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Amba Elieff
Booth Literary Journal
EKU/Bluegrass Writers Studio
Doris Settles - www.dorissettles.com
Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Writing – Spalding University
The Shoebox Poet
Write Crowd Publishing

#### Featured Authors

Angie Andriot
Emily Bingham
Thomas Kneeland
Samar Johnson
Sarah McCartt-Jackson
Lynn Slaughter
Tanya White
Ron Whitehead
Julia Youngblood

<u>jwagley.com</u>, Strategic Copywriter – Write Brain

### Meet Our Featured Speakers and Presenters



# Angie Andriot

Angie Andriot used to spend her days writing dull, academic papers which existed only behind the walls of peer-reviewed journals. But when she began writing fiction instead, a whole new world opened up for her. She eagerly threw herself into the scene and joined critique groups to help improve her writing and editing skills. This fall, Angie will be certified as a developmental editor and story coach by both Fictionary and Author Accelerator. Currently, she is busy revising her first novel - a young adult novel with an occult theme set in present-day Indiana.



LLA Sponsors Workshop at West End School with Emmy-Award Winner, Devine Carama



# **Emily Bingham**

Born in Louisville, Kentucky into a journalism family, Emily early on decided she wanted to write. Among her grade-school efforts was a poem inspired by the typewriter her father gave her as a child, and on which he typed bedtime stories as he told them. Her poem, "Typewriter," weighed the options—poet, novelist, journalist. The opportunity to dig deep into the past to tell true stories that shine a light on how we got here came later when she caught the bug for archival research and enrolled in Chapel Hill's US history doctoral program. Emily is currently Visiting Honors Faculty Fellow at Bellarmine University. Her essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in Vogue, Ohio Valley History, The Journal of Southern History, Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, and New England Review. Her books are Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham (2015), Mordecai: An Early American Family (2003), and, as editor with Thomas A. Underwood, The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal: Essays After I'll Take My Stand (2001). She and her husband Stephen Reily have three children.





# Samar Johnson

Samar (they/them) is a Black, gender expansive creative and writer. Their poetry has recently been featured in Kentucky Monthly Magazine as Honorable Mention in their yearly poetry competition. They are finishing a MA Musicology/Ethnomusicology from the University of Kentucky where their research centers the music of Black and queer musicians. In addition, they are currently working on their debut Southern gothic novel that features the lives of multi-generational, queer Black women. They also maintain a Substack, samar writes, where you may engage with their writing and thoughts weekly. Samar is the creative director for the Spirit Writers of the I WAS HERE project.



2022 Writer's Block Workshop



# Thomas Kneeland

Thomas Kneeland is an award-winning poet, educator, speaker, humanitarian, and visual artist. He is author of the chapbook We Be Walkin' Blackly in the Deep (Marian University Department of English, ENG401 Publishing & Print Culture), and one of ten 2022 Frontier Poetry Global Poetry Prize finalists for the continent of Africa. His poetry is widely published in the United States in journals and archives such as Up the Staircase Quarterly, South Florida Poetry Journal, INverse Poetry Archives, Clepsydra Literary & Art Magazine, Rigorous Magazine, and High Shelf Press. His work has been commissioned for a number of organizations, including the Indiana Arts Commission, the Indiana State Library, the University of Indianapolis College of Applied Behavioral Sciences, and Black Lives Matter. He founded The Elevation Review, an international poetry journal that amplifies the voices of underrepresented writers, with a strong emphasis on those writers whose cultures and communities combat the looming clouds of marginalization and oppression. Kneeland holds a B.A. in Creative Writing from DePauw University, an M.A. in Ministry — with a specialization in Worship Art — from Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, and is a thesis candidate in Butler University's MFA Program in Creative Writing, where he studies poetry.



2022 Writer's Block Workshop



# Sarah McCartt-Jackson

Kentucky poet, educator, and folklorist Sarah McCartt-Jackson has been published by Indiana Review, Journal of American Folklore, cream city review, The Maine Review, and others. Her poetry books include: Stonelight, Calf Canyon, Vein of Stone, and Children Born on the Wrong Side of the River. She has served as artist-in-residence for Great Smoky Mountains, Catoctin Mountain, Homestead, and Acadia National Parks.



# Lynn Slaughter

After a long dance career, Lynn Slaughter earned her MFA in Writing from Seton Hill University. She is the author of the newly released DEADLY SETUP; LEISHA'S SONG, a Moonbeam Children's Book Awards bronze medalist, Agatha nominee, Silver Falchion finalist, and Imadjinn Award winner; WHILE I DANCED, an EPIC finalist; and IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU, a Silver Falchion finalist. She is president of Derby Rotten Scoundrels, the Ohio River Valley chapter of Sisters in Crime.



# Tanya White

Tanya White was born and raised in Louisville, is a licensed minister, and is a proud active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is an alum of the University of Louisville, earning a B.S. in Management, M.Ed. in Special Education, M.A. in School Counseling, and Education Administration/Principal Certification. She has 13 years of experience as a special education teacher and 7 years as a school administrator. Tanya is the host of the Real Talk With Tanya White radio show, which airs on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM on Louisville's premier gospel station WLLV, and host of the Go Get It With Tanya White podcast on www.envisionedbroadcasting.com which airs Tuesdays at 12 noon. Tanya owns SNT Publishing and is the author of ten self-published works. Professionally Lynched landed at #1 on Amazon's Hot New Release List in the category of Discrimination and Constitutional Law.





# Ron Whitehead

Poet, writer, editor, publisher, professor, scholar, activist, Lifetime Beat Poet Laureate Ron Whitehead is the author of 30 books and 40 albums. Ron has produced thousands of events and festivals, including 24 & 48 & 72 & 90 hour non-stop music & poetry Insomnia cathons, in Europe and the USA. He has edited and published hundreds of titles including works by President Jimmy Carter, His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Seamus Heaney, Wendell Berry, Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Rita Dove, Diane di Prima, Bono, John Updike, Douglas Brinkley, Jim Carroll, Anne Waldman, Joy Harjo, Yoko Ono, Robert Hunter, Amiri Baraka, Hunter S. Thompson, and numerous others. His work has been translated into 20 languages. In 2018 Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer presented Ron with a Lifetime Achievement for Work in The Arts Award. In 2019 Ron was named Kentucky's Beat Poet Laureate and was also the first U.S. citizen to be named UNESCO's Tartu Estonia City of Literature Writer-in-Residence. In 2021, at a ceremony in Connecticut, Ron was inducted as U.S. National Beat Poet Laureate. In 2022 he was named Lifetime Beat Poet Laureate by the National & International Beat Poetry Foundation. OUTLAW POET: The Legend of Ron Whitehead, a feature length documentary on Ron's life and work, premiered in Louisville at Village 8 Theaters and at Actors Theatre of Louisville. It is now available for streaming and purchase on Amazon Prime Video Documentaries.



2022 Writer's Block Festival Panelists



# Julia Youngblood

Julia Youngblood, of Youngblood Harmonizing Arts, is a writer, an arts activist, educator, photographer, Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner, and exhibiting artist. For sixteen years Julia directed ArtsReach, a community arts engagement program at Kentucky Performing Arts. She has served on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, The Kentucky Arts Council, LexArts, and is currently a KPAN advisor on cultural equity. Youngblood is passionate about individual and community healing and the transformative power of art. She facilitates community arts with Molo Village, Maryhurst, and Dreams with Wings, and The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage's Samuel Plato Industrial and Cultural Arts Institute. Recent awards include the 2022 Indiana Arts Commission On-Ramp fellowship, the 2023 Unsung Hero Award from the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the 2023 Fund for the Arts HeArts Program Grant, and the 2023 Curate, Purchase, Inspire Grant from Louisville Visual Art.



2022 Writer's Block Vendor Row

**GYE NYAME of LOUISVILLE, Books & More** 

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**Our Host Site** 

Logan Street Market



Author Lynn Slaughter – https://lynnslaughter.com/

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# Your literary launch pad.

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Kathleen Driskell's "Poem for Grown Children" appeared recently in The New Yorker. She is past Chair of the AWP Board. Her chapbook The Vine Temple is out now (Carnegie Mellon).

Lynnell Edwards's forthcoming
The Bearable Slant of Light (Red
Hen Press) examines the costs
of mental illness in poems that
confront "the intimate struggle of
one family."

Erin Keane, chief content officer of Salon.com, writes about an extraordinary family through the lens of #MeToo in Runaway, named an NPR Best Book of 2022.

Silas House, Poet Laureate of Kentucky, wrote the video for Tyler Childers's song "In Your Love," the first major-label country music video to depict a gay storyline.



Bruce Marshall Romans's television credits include Falling Skies and Hell on Wheels. He is attached to the upcoming Prime Video series The Bondsman, starring Kevin Bacon.





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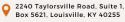




### Lousiville Literary Arts, Inc.: Who We Are & What We Do

power of words and the stories of its people.

location, you can contact us in





www.louisvilleliteraryarts.org





#### **ABOUT US**

Louisville Literary Arts (LLA) is a nonprofit organization committed to serving overlooked neighborhoods in Metro Louisville and offering online and in-person programs to writers throughout the country.

For more information or to donate, go to: www.louisvilleliteraryarts.org

#### **LOUISVILLE**

#### **LITERARY ARTS**

A writing community for all

#### INKY READING SERIES

#### The InKY Reading Series

showcases diverse local and national literary voices who have published one or more booklength works of fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction through a nationally distributed, literary or traditional publisher. We also introduce and support new authors. InKY is hosted both virtually and in-person.



#### **WORDSHOPS**

We offer individual and joint writing "wordshops" with skilled facilitators leading various sessions on:

- Marketing Your Book
- Poetry
- Publishing · Fiction Writing
- Young Adult Writing
- Editing

#### **OUR PURPOSE**

We help people write stories that change their lives - and the lives of the people who read them - by providing much-needed literary programs, resources, and opportunities.

**BECOME A** 

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OF LLA!



#### WRITER'S BLOCK

The Writer's Block Festival is a fullday event that welcomes writers, readers, teachers and publishing professionals. It hosts readings, performances, panels, staged interviews, open mics, exhibitors, speakers, craft workshops, writing pitches and literary agents.

SUPPORT