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**Mark your calendar!**

37th Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers  
July 8-14, 2024 - Wallowa Lake, Oregon



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Gathering of Writers  
July 8-14, 2024

**fishtrap.org**

## 37th Annual Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers: Love July 8-14, 2024 Wallowa Lake Lodge, Oregon



Join us for a weeklong experience like no other. You'll generate new work, take risks with your writing, and connect with a community of writers and instructors — surrounded by the stunning scenery of Wallowa County.

**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 5, 2024**



### Weeklong Workshops

Adult Workshop Registration includes five days of small-group morning instruction, plus access to panel discussions, craft talks, wilderness exploration, evening readings, and a keynote address on this year's theme of "Love" by award-winning poet, Aaron Abeyta.

Registration for Summer Fishtrap 2024 workshops is \$925, \$830 for Fishtrappers. *Meals and lodging not included.*

### Virtual Workshop

Can't make the trip to Wallowa Lake this year? Join us for a Summer Fishtrap Virtual Workshop with Eliot Treichel.

The last few years taught us that many of you enjoy the flexibility and accessibility of an online Summer Fishtrap experience. For 2024, we've added a cross-genre virtual writing workshop including live-streaming access to all presentations at Wallowa Lake. You'll get the same great instruction without the time and expense of travel. Workshop fee is sliding scale: \$250-\$925.

Pay what you can!

### Meals

Wallowa Lake Lodge offers meal plans which will be available to purchase on the first day of Summer Fishtrap. Individual meals per day and a nightly happy hour will also be available. You are welcome to bring your own food and dine with everyone at the Lodge. *No outside alcohol permitted.*

### Lodging

Rooms and cabins can be reserved at Wallowa Lake Lodge by calling them directly at 541-432-9821. Many additional lodging options are available to fit most any budget. Visit fishtrap.org for a list of options.

### Be a Fishtrapper and save 10% on your Summer Fishtrap registration!

With a sustaining monthly donation of \$5 or more, you'll support workshops, scholarships, fellowships, rural youth writing programs, and more! Sign up at fishtrap.org/fishtrapper.



# Summer Fishtrap Faculty and Workshops

## July 8-14, 2024

### Learn more and register at [FISHTRAP.ORG](https://fishtrap.org) ~ 541-426-3623

#### AARON ABEYTA - Poetry

##### *The Poem(s) for Which We Are Grateful* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Poetry

Each poem, those personal gestures of honesty, compassion, healing, and joy, are our attempts to enter a temporal and sacred space – where the universal and the personal meet at the confluence of our lives shared with those of our readers. What is the stuff – the magical, technique, the myths, the scars, the many homes of our hearts – that occupies the page in a poem that we can point to as being truly grateful for? What are the elements of a poem for which we are truly grateful. Each of us is carrying that poem within us. Our workshop will explore the multiple and complex emotions, those which seem disparate and difficult to tether to one another in a meaningful way, and we will write, write again, navigate the dangerous and safe places that poem will take us. Together, we will craft the poem we have always wanted to write, surrendering ourselves to the places, people and the voice the poem dictates, not us...the poem will guide us into its existence (that's the hope).



#### STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST - Nonfiction

##### *Elevating Life Into Art* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Nonfiction

Memoirs. Travelogues. Lyric Essays. Literary Journalism. Testimonios. No matter whether you are conducting an internal excavation or an external investigation, all forms of Creative Nonfiction are welcome in this workshop. Submit a manuscript of 8-12 pages, and together, we will strive to push it to the next level by taking risks both in content and in form. Questions we'll be asking: Where is the essay's pulse? How can it beat louder—or deeper? Should the story follow a classic rise-fall arc or be a fractured narrative with a scrambled chronology? In addition to critiquing each other's work, we will also discuss ways of feeding ourselves as artists both figuratively and literally, by sharing our motivations and strategizing on sustainable ways of fueling our practice. So join us. Together, we will be pilgrims wandering the wilderness of memory. Arbiters of the dynamic Fourth Genre. We will elevate life into art. We will write words that matter.



#### TIM Z. HERNANDEZ - Nonfiction

##### *Love: The Experiments* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Nonfiction

When drawing from material that is rooted in real life—particularly the heart matters—the process can quickly grow daunting and unwieldy, and it's easy to feel uncertain in the barrage of ideas, voices, memories, story fragments, and even purpose. Questions like: How much to tell? Where to begin? What to leave out? Am I digging deep enough? Do I have permission to tell it? These questions haunt our writing process, and it's easy to feel ungrounded. In this workshop we will experiment with our stories and memories by beginning each day with a meditation that is aimed at preparing our hearts and minds with the aim of developing practical tools for embracing the beautiful mess of writing, while at the same time pushing ourselves creatively beyond our comfort zones.



#### NINA McCONIGLEY - Fiction

##### *Only Connect: or What's Love Got to Do With It?* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Fiction

Love is a many splendored thing. All you need is love. Puppy love. Labor of love. All's fair in love and war. Love is everywhere, and yet we are living in the Eremozoic, meaning "The Age of Loneliness." The worries of the world are vast, and from this, writers make art and speak to beauty in the world. How do we find hope in this age? Love? Connection? In this class, we'll try and do just that. With love as the foundation, we will write about love in its prismatic vastness and many forms – from romantic love, love of place, family love, to even love of animals. We'll examine what impact we can make with our words and try our hands at writing through this dimness with awareness, hope, and love.



#### RENA PRIEST - Poetry

##### *The Secret Medicine* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Poetry

The dervish poet Rumi wrote, "There is a secret medicine / given only to those who hurt so hard / they can't hope. / The hoppers would feel slighted if they knew." I have often been a hopeless recipient of that secret medicine. The universe administers it in surreptitious love letters sent to us as poetry. The medicine awakens a weary spirit to eddies of dust glittering in sunshine and the return of birdsong at winter's end. In this course offering, we will discuss how poetry expresses our connection to the earth, each other, our human experience, and the infinite beauty of the universe. We will write and explore how poetry nourishes, heals, and loves us.



#### LAURA PRITCHETT - Fiction

##### *Lovin' on Mother Earth through Imagination* - A Creative Writing Workshop in Fiction

"The best arguments in the world won't change a person's mind. The only thing that can do that is a good story." So writes Richard Powers in *The Overstory*, and in this class we'll be focusing on contemporary fiction that prioritizes stories of the natural world—and how to add your voice to that conversation. We'll read passages from novels by Barbara Kingsolver, Louise Erdrich, Octavia Butler, TC Boyles, and others, and we'll be talking about fiction fundamentals—character, place, point-of-view, arc, and plot. Each day, we'll read, talk about craft, write, and share bits of our work, focusing on how fiction can hold our environmental concerns and care. Imagination, after all, is where great truths can be rendered—and solutions imagined! Note for booklovers: An optional reading list will be provided early in summer for those who want the challenge of reading relevant novels before class.



#### SHARMA SHIELDS and SIMEON MILLS - Microfiction

##### *Visual Storytelling* - A Creative Writing, Illustration, and Graphic Storytelling Workshop

In this exciting and innovative workshop, we'll write microfiction, illustrate personal comic strips, and launch zines. There is no prior drawing experience required, only an open mind. The imperfect hand of the artist is an embraced feature here; we'll play with hybrid narratives and use our passions and personal experience to create new and unexpected material. Artists we might discuss include Jillian Tamaki, Mira Jacob, and Chelsea Martin, and we'll find inspiration in a multiplicity of genres, including novels, short stories, New York Times op eds, comics, and zines. By the week's end we'll have pages of new work and the know-how to continue making visual narratives.



#### KIM STAFFORD - Cross-Genre

##### *How to Love Your Reader through Revision* - A Cross Genre Workshop on the Craft of Revision

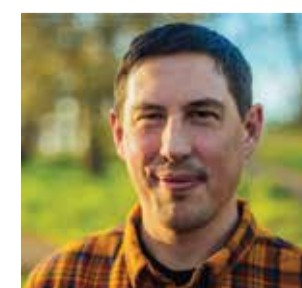
The writer George Saunders says revision is like straightening up the house before a party—you want everything delightfully in place to let the good times roll. So revision is not an act of craft a writer performs on a text, but an act of affection a writer undertakes for a reader. You want your reader to laugh, cry, feel loved, and spread the love. In this workshop we will generate rough texts in multiple genres, then tinker with our drafts to prepare them as delicious gifts for readers. Working with a "Periodic Table of Elements" for revision, we will practice love for readers we may never meet by strewing the world with gifts from our intuitive hearts and crafty minds.



#### ELIOT TREICHEL - Cross-Genre

##### *Find Your Love* - A Virtual Cross Genre Creative Writing Workshop

A common piece of writing advice is to write what you know. But is that really the best approach? The author Peter Ho Davies believes that write what you know has value as advice, he believes a better focus might be on how we come to know what we know, which is through a process of revision. "Early drafts," he writes, "might be phrased 'Write to know.'" Revision: "Revise to know more." And the final draft: "I've written what I now know." This open-genre, generative workshop will explore these three ideas, with the end goal of transforming our creative process and finding our love—our capacity to be present in the world and write with curiosity and openness. Through daily writing prompts, craft lessons, discussion and feedback, participants should leave the workshop with fresh inspiration and a body of work they can continue getting to know.



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