

A PROGRAM OF
COMMUNITY
ARTS
PARTNERSHIP

SPRINGWRITES.ORG



Spring Writes!

LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL



LIVE: May 7-10, 16, 31

ZOOM: May 14-28, June 13

MORE EVENTS: July - Sept

2026



SPRING WRITES LITERARY FESTIVAL

Over 100 Artists
Over 40 Events
SpringWrites.org

Live: May 7-10, 16, 31

SpringWrites.org
All 40 Events
Participant Bios
Locations/Parking Info

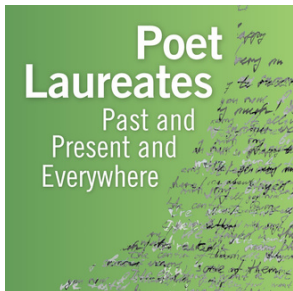


THURSDAY, MAY 7

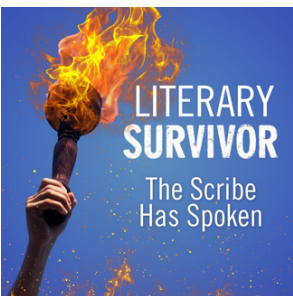


5:30 - 6:30pm
Open Mic for Teens,
hosted by the Tompkins
County Public Library
Library, Borg Warner Room

Teens are invited to share their own poems and writing, or read work that they love.



6:00 - 7:00pm
Reading: Poet Laureates -
Past, Present & Everywhere
Buffalo Street Books
with nicole v. basta, Katharyn
Howd Machan, Michelle
Courtney Berry, Melissa Tuckey,
Jack Hopper, Zee Zahava and
Gail Holst-Warhaft



6:30 - 8:00pm
Literary Survivor: The
Scribe Has Spoken
Liquid State Brewing Company
In this Survivor-themed event,
two genre-themed teams
(Team Romance & Team Sci-Fi)
compete in a series of quirky
literary challenges and vote
contestants out.

FRIDAY, MAY 8



5:30 - 6:30pm
Kitchen Table Talk
Buffalo Street Books
Four women poets share texts
about how we make, extend, and
receive nourishment despite
oppressive conditions, with
Yessica Martinez, Jasmine Jay,
Tierra Labrada, and Shacoya
Kidwell.

May 7-31
Live Event
Descriptions

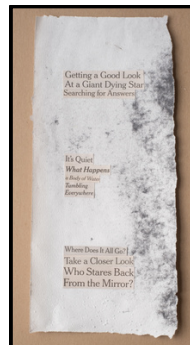


Registration Requested
Just one form for all May 7-31 Events
Use code, or find form link on website



**Spring Writes is a Community
Art Partnership program!**

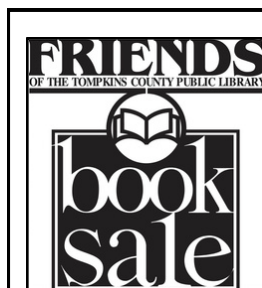
Visit ArtsPartner.org to
learn about all of our
events, grants,
workshops, & more!
info@artspartner.org



Literary Exhibit in our
CAP ArtSpace Gallery!

Sonnet Comet
Clare Jones

Opens: Friday, May 1 on
Gallery Night, 5 - 8pm
Exhibit up through May



2026 Spring Sale
509 Esty Street

May 2-4
May 9-11
May 16-19

BookSale.org

SATURDAY, MAY 9



Writers' Block Party

1:00 - 2:00pm
Writers' Block Party
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Led by **Clare Jones**. The quietest block party EVER! Bring whatever you write with. We will check in, write independently, and wrap up with a high five. Join the celebration!



Exquisite Corpse

Collaborative Storymaking

1:00 - 2:00pm
Exquisite Corpse:
Collaborative Storytelling
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Story House Ithaca co-directors **Jen Percy-Edwards** and **Lesley Greene** lead storytelling games, an Exquisite Corpse writing activity, & build stories together!

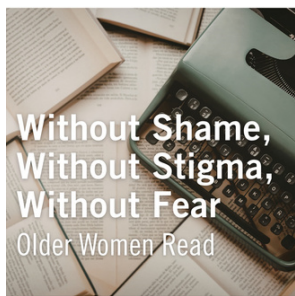


A Path to Publishing

Finding the Best Route for You

2:15 - 3:15pm
Panel: A Path to Publishing:
Finding the Best Route for You
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Panel: **Amanda K. Jaros**, **Rob Costello**, **Susan Currie**, and **Janie E. Bibbie** explore various tracks writers might follow to publish their manuscripts.

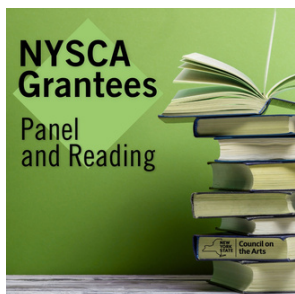


Without Shame, Without Stigma, Without Fear

Older Women Read

2:15 - 3:15pm
Without Shame, Without Stigma, Without Fear: Older Women Read
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Stories about love, loss, and aging written and performed by **Yvonne Fisher**, **Leigh Keeley** and **Sue Perlgut**.



NYSCA Grantees

Panel and Reading

3:30 - 4:30pm
Panel / Reading: NYSCA Grantees
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

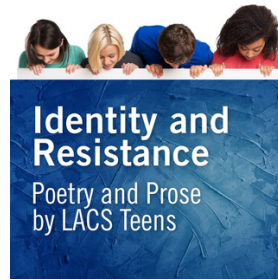
Recent NYSCA grantees (memoir, fiction, photography) showcase their funded projects, discuss the grant process, and read work-in-progress. Q&A. **Sorayya Khan**, **Brian Arnold**, **Eleanor Henderson**, **Liz Arnold**.



Panoply of Playwrights

3:30 - 4:30pm
Panoply of Playwrights
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Featuring short plays or excerpts of plays by local playwrights, voiced by local actors.



Identity and Resistance

Poetry and Prose by LACS Teens

4:00 - 5:00pm
Reading: Identity & Resistance
Buffalo Street Books

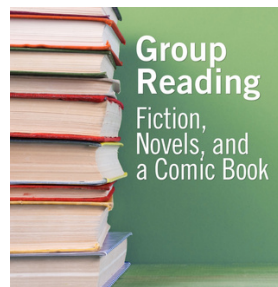
Teen writers from Lehman Alternative Community School" poetry and prose about identity and resistance, rage and love, struggle and community.



Writing Through the Hard Times Panel

4:45 - 5:45pm
Panel: Writing Through the Hard Times
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Panel of local fantasy, YA, and romance authors discuss using the craft of writing to find joy, catharsis, and survival in difficult times. **Sam Geller**, **Isabel Sterling, M. Stevenson**, **Erica Rose Eberhart**.

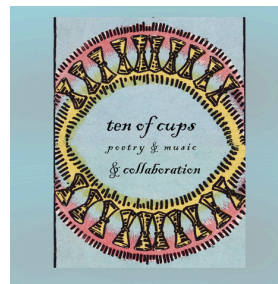


Group Reading

Fiction, Novels, and a Comic Book

4:45 - 5:45pm
Saturday Group Reading
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

with **Alida Dean**, **Aurora Rey**, **Lushima Lumumba**, **Finley Lynn Williams**, **Stephen St. Francis Decky**, and **Robert Isaacs**.



ten of cups

poetry & music & collaboration

7:00 - 9:00pm
Ten of Cups
Lot 10 Ithaca

Poetry, music, and collaboration with **nicole v. basta**, **Jamaica Baldwin**, **Amber Martin**, **Aishvarya Arora**, **Amrita Chakraborty**, and **Annie Sumi**.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

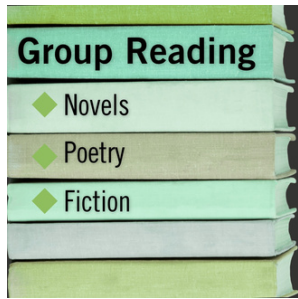


Play it Again Senior Theatre Troupe

1:00 - 2:00pm
Senior Theatre Troupe
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center

Peak Experiences, directed by **Susan Kaplan**, with original short pieces by **Dan Klein**, **John Buskin**, **Robin Rosner**, **Sam Swartz**, **Deirdre Silverman**, **Jean Senegas**, **Mark Silverman**, **Patricia Frazier**, and **Valerie Evans**.

SUNDAY, MAY 10 Cont'd



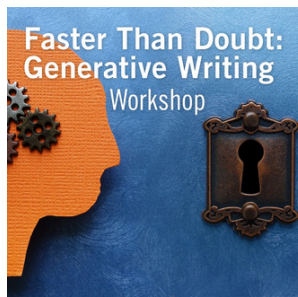
1:00 - 2:00pm
Sunday Group Reading
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 with **Naomi Artemi, Michael Gray Bulla, Rozey Hill, Stephen Paling, Ruma Poudell, and Elle Tinnirella.**



2:15 - 3:15pm
Write with Me! Creative Writing as a Family Activity
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 For children ages 10+ with an adult caregiver. Writer and educator **Lee Cotman** will lead participants in partnered writing activities that celebrate story-telling and imagination as forms of care.



2:15 - 3:15pm
Xicanxfuturism: Gritos for Tomorrow
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 Enjoy Xicanx speculative imagination and presence through dynamic readings and a discussion by writers featured in this anthology. Publisher **Brenda Vaca**, Editor **Scott Russell Duncan**, writers **Rocio Anica** and **Ernesto Mireles.**



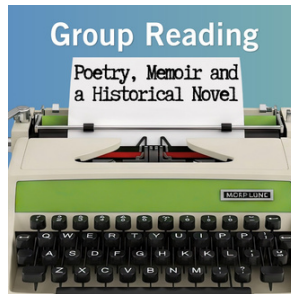
2:15 - 3:15pm
Faster Than Doubt
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 Writing prompts to encourage playfulness, getting out of your own way, and digging into the specificity that makes stories and characters come alive. (For writers of all stripes.) **Leslie Daniels** and **E.C. Barrett.**



3:30 - 4:30pm
It's All Going to the Dogs
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 with **Regi Carpenter.** Be bold! Join this wild happenin'. Listen to a story, get a brief coaching on how to tell a great story, and then get up and do it!



3:30 - 4:30pm
Mother: The Verb, the Noun, the Legend
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 Writers share their heartfelt, comical, and complicated experiences mothering and being mothered. **Alison Fromme, Emily Hopkins, Jessica Bindel, Kate Frazer, and Melanie Lefkowitz.**



4:45 - 5:45pm
Sunday Group Reading
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 with **Shahirah Jadeed, Gordon Bonnet, Bridget Huh, Kathy Morris, Ris Pareti, Jon Raimon.**



4:45 - 5:45pm
Building Fantastical Worlds
Ithaca Downtown Conf Center
 Create science-fictional and fantastical worlds! Harness your creativity and build balloon globe worlds alongside a speculative fiction author **D.A. Xiaolin Spires.**

SATURDAY, MAY 16



6:00 - 8:00pm
Seven Minutes in Heaven, a Spin-the-Bottle of the Arts
Cherry Arts Performance Space
 Seven readers read seven local writers' work. A spin of the bottle matches that reader with one of seven musicians!

SUNDAY, MAY 31



11:00am - 5:00pm
Ithaca Book & Zine Fair
Buffalo Street Books and DeWitt Mall
 This free community event highlights local and regional independent publishers, zine-makers, artists, and writers.

Downtown Ithaca Event Locations & Parking Info



Buffalo Street Books, 215 N Cayuga St (Dewitt Mall), **Entrance on Buffalo Street**
buffalostreetbooks.com

Tompkins County Public Library , Borg Warner Room, 101 East Green Street / tcpl.org

Ithaca Downtown Conference Center, 116 E. Green Street
ithacadowntownconferencecenter.com

CAP ArtSpace, 110 N. Tioga Street, Ithaca Commons, Tompkins Center for History & Culture
ArtsPartner.org/ArtSpace

Lot 10, 106 S. Cayuga Street / [instagram.com/lot10ithaca](https://www.instagram.com/lot10ithaca)

Liquid State Brewing Company, 620 W. Green Street / LiquidStateBeer.com

The Cherry Arts, 130 Cherry Street (not on map), thecherry.org

PARKING:

On-street parking is \$2.50/hour weekdays and Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm. Use parkmobile app or pay stations. Free after 6:00pm and all day Sunday.

Two **Parking garages** (Cayuga Street and Green Street) are open 24/7 and are close to event locations. Fees vary. The Green Street parking garage is right next to the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center! (Note: Seneca Street Garage permanently closed.)

For more information about street parking, mobile app, and garage rates, visit cityofithaca.org/705/Parking-Information or google: City of Ithaca parking.



SPRING WRITES LITERARY FESTIVAL

Over 100 Artists
Over 40 Events
SpringWrites.org

Zoom: May 14-28, June 14

Zoom Event Descriptions

Registration Required

Links are with descriptions



THURSDAY, MAY 14

Writing Place as a Lived Experience
Workshop

6:00 - 6:55pm
Workshop: Writing Place as a Lived Experience
ZOOM - Registration Required
Explore how an intentional focus on place shapes the inner and outer landscapes of our writing, with **Aurora Bonner**.

Workshop: Lower That Word Count

7:00 - 8:00pm
Workshop: Lower That Word Count!
ZOOM - Registration Required
Got a manuscript that needs a trim--or a serious haircut? Bring some pages and learn actionable tips for making it tighter, clearer, and aligned with publishing industry preferences. with **Ilona Bray** and **Stephen Soong**.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

BOOK Boggle

6:00 - 6:55pm
Workshop: Book Boggle!
ZOOM - Registration Required
Join writers of all genres for a few rounds of BOGGLE and wordplay that then lead into guided exercises in prose and poetry. Led by **Clare Jones**.

Group Reading
Poetry, Flash Fiction and Speculative Fiction

7:00 - 8:00pm
Group Reading
ZOOM - Registration Required
with **Fran Markover, Caitlin Strong, Jhenah Telyndru, Jim Mack** and **Dr. Nia Nunn**.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

ITHACA COLLEGE
Student Reading
Poetry, Prose, Fiction & More!

6:00 - 7:00pm
Ithaca College Writing Students Reading
ZOOM - Registration Required
Join Ithaca College students for an evening of storytelling: poetry, prose, fiction, and more!

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Burn Bright, Not Out
Caring For Your Creative Self When Everything Feels Hard

6:00 - 6:55pm
Workshop: Burn Bright, Not Out
ZOOM - Registration Required
Caring for your creative self when everything feels hard, with **Aurora Rey**.

Group Reading
Poetry & Debut Novels!

7:00 - 8:00pm
Zoom Group Reading
ZOOM - Registration Required
Peter Fortunato, Amir McClam, Lex E Santí, Laura Glenn and **Rebecca Gopoian**.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Juneteenth: The Black Fantastic
Reading

7:00 - 8:00pm
Reading: Juneteenth: The Black Fantastic
ZOOM - Registration Required
A reading of speculative poetry by African American poets on the theme of Juneteenth. with **Linda Addison, Owolabe Aboyade, Sol'Sax, upfromsumdirt,** and **Akua Lezli Hope**.



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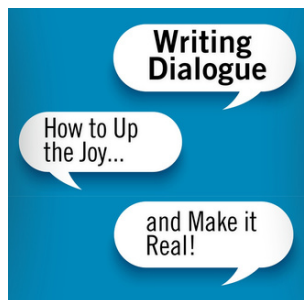
Live: July - Sept

THURS, JULY 9



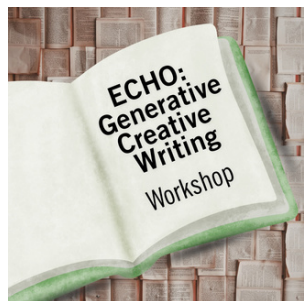
6:00 - 7:00pm
So You Want To Write a Picture Book?
Buffalo Street Books
Join author **Emily Sun Li** and **Julian Plum** for a craft-focused workshop on writing picture books - exploring structure, page turns, and turning ideas into stories.

THURS, JULY 23



6:00 - 7:00pm
Writing Dialogue: How to Up the Joy and Make it Real
Buffalo Street Books
with **Holly Adams**. How do you stay true to the characters in your head and also make it engaging to readers? We'll explore unusual prompts and workshoping methods. Collaborative and fun!

SATURDAY, JULY 25



2:00 - 3:00pm
ECHO: Generative Creative Writing Workshop
Buffalo Street Books
In this generative workshop with **nicole v. basta** you'll engage with other texts as a starting point, a place to echo outward into your own work through prompts and evocative, peculiar questions.

THURS, AUGUST 20



6:00 - 7:00pm
Workshop: Humor Writing
Buffalo Street Books
with **David Guaspari**. Writing short humor pieces like those in the New Yorker's "Shouts & Murmurs" column or in McSweeney's Internet Tendency. How and where to publish them.

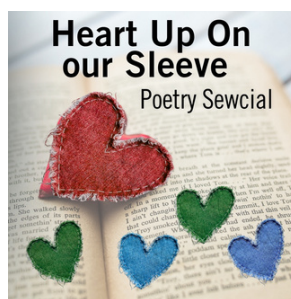
July - Sept Event Descriptions

Registration Required

Links are with description



SATURDAY, AUGUST 22



2:00 - 3:00pm
Heart Up-On Our Sleeve: Poetry Sewcial
Buffalo Street Books
Stitch a fabric heart on your clothing while listening to local writers explore vulnerability through personal pieces. Facilitated by **S. E. Barden** and **Zoë Van Nostrand**

SATURDAY, SEPT 5



2:00 - 3:00pm
Tips & Tricks for Creating Pop-ups and Papercraft
Buffalo Street Books
Fans of Griffin & Sabine, and the "Ology" series know how fun pop-ups & papercraft are! **Rose "Moo" Howard** will demo several easy techniques you can learn to do at home.

THURS, SEPT 17



6:00 - 7:00pm
Workshop: Memoir Kickstart
Buffalo Street Books
Thinking about writing a memoir but unsure where to start? Learn a simple structure to share life stories and find your authentic voice with **Lisa D'Annolfo Levey**.

SATURDAY, SEPT 19



2:00 - 3:00pm
Panel: From Life to Art
Buffalo Street Books
Fiction and poetry writers draw on their personal life experiences to help create the characters, problems and resolutions crafting into their work. **Jeanne Mackin, Nancy Ohlin, Nancy Holzner, Hardy Griffin**.

COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP - YOUR HOST

For over 33 years the Community Arts Partnership has been a driving force behind the vibrant arts community of Ithaca & Tompkins County. See all that we do at ArtsPartner.org

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

and SUPPORT our artist communities.

Together we make a difference! While all of the Community Arts Partnership's annual events are free (YAY!), we do need to fundraise throughout the year to continue to provide much needed support for our Tompkins County artist communities, like grants programs, professional development for artists, and free arts events for artists and audiences alike. **Please join us in helping make events like Spring Writes possible.** Visit our donate page by using the QR code or link to the right. Donations are tax deductible. (THANK YOU!)



Visit our Donate Page at ArtsPartner.org/Give

QUESTIONS

Robin Schwartz, "CAP" Program & Grant Director at Programs@artspartner.org

We Thank our Spring Writes Business Sponsors



ITHACA COLLEGE



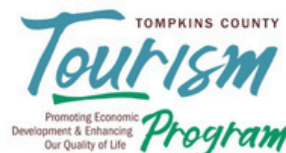
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Poets&Writers