

Mokulē'ia Writers Retreat 2017

Who We Are

RETREAT TEAM

Constance Hale (director)

Connie writes children's books, adult's books, essays, profiles, and just about anything she can about Hawai'i. She also curates sinandsyntax.com, a place "for those who love wicked good prose." She has been an editor at the *Oakland Tribune*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *Wired*, and *Health*, and coaches many writers tackling their first (or fifth) books. She was born in Waialua, and her family lives there, which makes this retreat a happy overlay of the personal and the professional. Her recent children's book, *Iwalani's Tree*, is even set here.

David Baumgart Turner (camp kahu)

Executive director of Camp Mokulē'ia, David Turner is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with family roots in Hawai'i stretching back six generations. He has been a pastor, a hospital and school chaplain, and a consultant on sustainability. He finds in his work at Camp the perfect setting for bridging the sacred wisdom of both Christianity and Hawaiian spirituality. David and his staff work to ensure that all who spend time here have opportunities to experience moments that shape the habits of their hearts and also their actions.

Camp Mokulē'ia Staff

Please say Hello to anyone wearing a Camp Mokulē'ia T-shirt! The people who help us most for the retreat are Shane (registration and rooms) Seini (driving and programs), Zac (the king of the Dining Hall), and Sonny (Zac's deputy). Other staff include Debbie, Kelly, Tara, and the Episcopal Service Corps interns Sable and Andrew.

Molly Mayher (official retreat mom)

Born in Springfield, MA, Molly received a B.A. from Smith College after spending a year as a student in France. She came to Waialua in 1956, and her first two children were born at the Waialua Hospital. Molly tutored reading at Waialua High & Intermediate and taught the language portion of adult education GED prep. Subsequently, she worked at Tripler Army Medical Center for 30 years. She volunteers at Waimea Valley, the Waialua Library, and Tripler. Molly loves living in Waialua because of the ocean, the clear air, open windows, and cultural diversity.

RETREAT FACULTY

Steven Taylor Goldsberry is a retired professor of English at the University of Hawai'i and the author of fourteen books, including *The Writer's Book of Wisdom* and the novels *Luzon* and *Maui the Demigod*. He has been teaching creative writing for thirty years and is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He lives in Lai'e, at the northernmost edge of the North Shore.

A graduate of Columbia Journalism School, **Zoe FitzGerald Carter** has written for *The New York Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Salon*, and *Vogue*. Her memoir, *Imperfect Endings: A Daughter's Story of Love, Loss and Letting Go*, chronicled her mother's decision to end her life after living with Parkinson's disease for many years. *People* magazine wrote that *Imperfect Endings* "coaxes beauty from the bleak." Zoe teaches writing at The San Francisco Writers Grotto and is currently at work on a book about race.

Barbara Marsh is a London-based American writer, musician and teacher. Winner of the 2015 Troubadour International Poetry Prize, her debut collection is *To the Boneyard* (Eyewear Publications), with a pamphlet coming out in summer 2017. Her poetry has been widely anthologized and appears in various magazines and pamphlets. As a musician/singer/songwriter, she was half of the Anglo-American duo *The Dear Janes* (Geffen Records). She has an Mphil in Creative Writing from the University of Glamorgan.

Linda Watanabe McFerrin is a poet, travel writer, and novelist. She is the author of two poetry collections and a winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction. Her novel, *Namako: Sea Cucumber*, was named Best Book for the Teen-Age by the New York Public Library. She has also written the short-story collection *The Hand of Buddha*, co-edited twelve anthologies, and written a zombie novel, *Dead Love*, which was a 2009 Bram Stoker Award Finalist for Superior Achievement in a Novel. Linda is the founder of Left Coast Writers in the San Francisco Bay Area and has led workshops in Japan, Indonesia, Greece, France, Italy, England, Ireland, Central America, Spain as well as the United States.

Tamara Moan is an artist and writer who lives in Kailua, on Oahu's windward side. With BFA and MA (creative writing) degrees, she works as an editor and freelance writer and teaches at the Honolulu Museum of Art School. Her nonfiction on art and Hawaiian culture topics has been published in Hawaii- and national-circulation magazines; her poetry has appeared in a number of literary journals, including *Bamboo Ridge*.

Bridget Quinn is the author of *Broad Strokes: 15 Women Who Made Art & Made History (in That Order)*, on the artwork, lives and legacies of overlooked artists. Bridget is also the author of the memoir *Home Team*. Bridget's essays can be found in the anthologies *Solo: On Her Own Adventure* (Seal Press), *Two In The Wild* (Vintage) and *Brain, Child: Greatest Hits*. Her essay "Back in the Pool" was a finalist for the 2006 Annie Dillard Prize in Creative Nonfiction, and her memoir "At Swim, Two Girls," was included in *Best American Sports Writing 2013*.

Shawna Yang Ryan teaches in the Creative Writing Program at UH-Mānoa. Her debut novel, *Water Ghosts*, was a *San Francisco Chronicle* Bestseller and won the 2006 UC Davis Maurice Prize. *Green Island*, her new novel (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016) is set in Taiwan during its martial law era.

As artist, educator, author, and performer **Lynn Young** (aka Quala-Lynn) has been active in Hawaii's art communities for over thirty years. She teaches visual art in elementary schools, museums and at the College of Education, UHM. Her book *Where's My Ritspik?* features original photographs and poems that deal profoundly and playfully with language, memory and loss. This hand-bound book was published by TinFish Press in 2015.

WRITERS IN RESIDENCE

Angela Nishimoto grew up on the windward side of O‘ahu, works on the leeward side, and lives in Honolulu. She has been writing for twenty years and has published in *Hawai‘i Review*, *Hawai‘i Pacific Review*, *Chaminade Literary Review*, *Kaimana*, *Bamboo Ridge*, *Writing Raw*, and elsewhere.

Shanthi Sekaran lives in Berkeley, California and is the author of two novels. Her second novel, *Lucky Boy*, was recently named an Indie Next Great Read and an Amazon Editors' Pick. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Best New American Voices*. She's a member of the San Francisco Writers' Grotto and teaches writing and literature at California College of the Arts. You can find out more about her writing and events at www.shanthisekaran.com

ATTENDEES

Ibbie White Alshamma: Watercolorist (www.ibbieart.com) and writer in multiple formats: feature stories for newspapers and magazines; business materials and corporate newsletters; poetry. I live happily on Kauai on a small farm with three dogs, four cats and a turtle. At this turning point in my well-lived life, I seek new approaches to my writing and look forward to stirrings of inspiration and creativity.

Alexandra Avery: Arrived in Kailua in 1952. Have dreamed about being a writer ever since. Author of *Aromatherapy and You*, co-author of *Women of Aromatherapy*. Still dreaming about writing a novel. Beginning to activate this dream currently. I have attended a few writing workshops. My favorite was with Tom Robbins.

Joanna Bressler lives in central O‘ahu. She writes short stories, memoir, and flash fiction and is currently finishing her first novel. She also leads two writing critique groups, one in Honolulu, the other in Mililani. Her work has appeared in national magazines, newspapers, anthologies, Internet journals, and chapbooks. In her past life, she was a professor of clinical and health psychology and an epidemiological researcher.

Don Brough: Almost retired after 11 years in Engineering and 43 in Real Estate Management. I want to begin writing a memoir to give to my children, and then try writing fiction. I have written several manuals on real estate topics, which is not very interesting.

Deborah Duval: I grew up in Colorado and moved to Hawai‘i in 1996. I left a teaching career to start a business importing and selling wholesale Tahitian and golden South Sea pearls. I saw a niche for one-of-a-kind pieces featuring semi-precious gemstones, eventually designing a signature piece (the Dare Necklace) with a unique clasp allowing you to wear your strand 20 different ways. I recently retired from this business and am pursuing a journey in writing.

Erin Foley lives and works in Hawai‘i and has developed her poetry over several years as a member of an intimate poetry group in Kohala. Her inspiration comes from keen observation of nature as a botanist, anthropologist, and entomologist in training. Her recent haiku, inspired by travel to Ireland, was featured on Rick Steves.

Mary Lou Fulton: After 20 years in the worlds of journalism and digital media, I now work for social justice as a program director at California's largest health foundation. Inspired by my experience at last year's Mokule'ia retreat, I'm writing a collection of essays and songs about growing up in Yuma, Arizona, along the U.S.-Mexico border. The working title of the project is Western Club, named after the dive bar where I sang with my dad's country band.

Suzanne Gilbert: In my twenties I worked as a "stringer" for *France Dimanche* and *France Soir* and also as French translator for *Hollywood Entertainment*. With my boss, Jacques Harvey, I co-wrote a made-for-TV documentary called, *California, Animal Paradise*, which was shown on French and Italian TV in the 70s. I wrote ad copy for *Overdrive*, a *Trucking Magazine*, when I was in my twenties and was the Media Director for Greenpeace Hawaii when I first moved here. I have begun writing a family history with my brother, which dates back to the 17th century. My writer's retreat roommate has playfully titled it *Captains & Courtesans*.

Sandra Gorski-Brough: Retired from Social Work, so have considerable expertise in report writing. Pursuing art interests with classes and playing with art. Pursuing writing by starting a memoir and basic outline for nonfiction. Currently in singing classes, as well. Enjoy walking!

Vickie Kim: Fourth-generation Asian with many expressions as a daughter, mother, grandmother and mature feminine woman blessed by this amazing environment, Hawai'i. Choosing health grace and beauty as long as I am able to.

Henrietta Komras: I am a stand-up comedian who performs in all the major clubs in LA and across the country and write my own comedy material. I have also written and starred in and produced a one-woman show at the LA Fringe Comedy Festival that got great reviews, called "Please Love Me." I am currently working on my memoir about growing up as the only surviving child of Holocaust survivors. My work is a dark comedy.

Ed Lee: Aloha. Many years ago, I started a book of fiction but stopped when life and kids happened. Prior to that I wrote some short stories, but I was mainly a writer/editor for an arts and entertainment magazine in Toronto, covering film and music. Now I run a business in ESL education in Honolulu, where I have lived for 12 years. I dug out the dusty old manuscript of the novel from the closet, and am trying to figure out how to continue it after so many years and experiences. When I put my pen to paper, words that can be described as poetry just seemed to just flow out. These poems, which are both personal and transcendental, have re-ignited a passion for writing that had been dormant for so long.

Heather Mackey: I got started as a journalist then went to get an MFA in fiction writing. Now I write novels for kids. My first book, *Dreamwood*, came out in 2014 and I am finishing up a new middle-grade fantasy, which should come out next year. I live in Berkeley with my husband (also a writer) and two children.

Ka'iulani Milham is a community organizer and activist, mother of three adult daughters, independent kanaka maoli journalist and part-time Uber driver. Born in Hollywood, Calif., she is currently at work on a screenplay about the overthrow of Hawai'i's last reigning monarch; Queen Lili'uokalani.

Barb Morgan: Of Hawai'i, and nearly seven decades of growing to the age of reflection. A core family of three siblings and three children has blossomed into "jillions" of spouses and wee ones! 2017 will bring five grands living in Hawai'i and a celebration of 40 years with my best friend. After retirement from early childhood/school administration, and shaken by the recent elevation of a bully as leader, I am rethinking my focus.

Teru Morton: I am a mixed-race woman born in Hawai'i, graduated from University High School and Swarthmore College, with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Utah. I retired from a career as a professor of psychology 8 years ago to travel, which I do 4-7 months a year. I published scores of scientific/scholarly/academic pieces and now want to try more creative and unfettered writing.

Perri Osattin: I tend to write "literary non-fiction," and I just moved to California to work at a design agency (I previously worked at a creative consultancy called The Writer in NY). I just completed my first class at The Grotto and signed up for another, and I recently participated in my first public reading. I'm eager to keep the momentum and learning going!

Barbara Raymond: I am thrilled to be returning to Mokule'ia. This year has been a time of transition for me, and I'm still in the throes of it. A chronic illness has left me unable to work for the time being and it seems that a long career in social justice may be drawing to a close. Being sick and trying to get well has occupied much of my time and I am eager to turn to more nourishing creative outlets. I'm working on some personal essays as well as a kind of family story picture book (with Maira Kalman as inspiration). I've written quite often for work but it's the personal stories that are calling out to be told. Spring 2017 will be dedicated to that pursuit.

David Robinson: I am a photographer and writer; I've had four monographs published for which I wrote extensive text. I've also taught Travel Photography at UC Berkeley Extension and have had articles published in Travelers' Tales and various newspapers. I've recently self-published nine books. I have been working for years on an autobiography and expect to work on this at the workshop.

Carolyn Ruck: I taught English and social studies in junior high and high school for eleven years, then became a Professor of Teacher Education at Southern Oregon University for twenty-five years. I'm also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. I have written mostly nonfiction, much without a byline, and was published in some educational journals like *Science and Children*. When I retired, I began writing fiction again. I have two screenplays and five children's picture books completed, and I'm currently working on a middle-grade science fantasy. I also have some ideas for a memoir. (I'm also working on converting the screenplays to novels.)

Leslie Rupley: Following a career in education, I enjoyed eight years as a personal historian while writing twelve memoirs for my clients. When I wrote my own childhood vignettes, I realized that I could help others who want to create their own collections of stories. *Remembering Childhood: Workbook Your Way to a Finished Memoir* was published in 2016. *Beyond the Silk Mills*, an historical novel is my first work of nonfiction. I'm currently absorbed in the lives of the sequel characters to that novel. I live in Walnut Creek, California, and thrive while hiking local trails and spending time with family and friends.

Cavan Scanlan: Born and raised on O‘ahu, I currently teach in the high school English department at Kamehameha School—Kāpalama. As I am also approaching completion of an M.A. in Creative Writing from UH Mānoa, this makes me a teacher who writes—a condition I am looking to perhaps flip. A few areas of interest are Pasifika poetry and literature, life writing, and indigenous narratives in education.

Dr. Joan Steidinger, is a licensed and sports psychologist and a Certified Consultant in Sports Psychology. She writes about female athletes, sporting adventures, and the orphanage that she and her husband support in Kathmandu. Her book about female athletes and relationships is *Sisterhood in Sports: How Female Athletes Collaborate and Compete*. She is working on a new book with a working title of *Inequality in Sport Female Athletes Around the Globe*. A former competitive ultrarunner and ultra distance cyclist, she has begun running ultras again to raise educational funds for Nepali children. She lives on Mt. Tam in Mill Valley, California, with her fellow adventurer and husband, JP, and their two big cuddly Golden Retrievers, Spencer and Parker (thanks to Robert B...).

Alex Suthard is a nonfiction writer. She recently became a stepmother, wife, and mother of two baby sons, so she is re-entering the world of writing. She used to write about her travels and public health. The future remains open.

Janice Williamson: I am a retired elementary school teacher who wishes to write an ABC nonfiction book on Hawaiian Monk Seals I enjoy writing and using language to inform and engage my readers.

Melinda Wood: I live in Honolulu, am retired, and wonder when I'm going to finish my writing project. This is my third year here so I don't even have a good excuse. This one better be it!