

# **WELCOME**

*yWrite 2024 presents...*



*2024 Writers Conference*

***Calling You to the Page!***

*Always the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of November!*

*~ Saturday, November 2, 2024 ~*

*Agawam Senior Center \* 954 Main Street \* Agawam, MA*

*Hosted by the yWrite w/Angela Grout Podcast*

[www.angelagrout.com](http://www.angelagrout.com)

[www.youtube.com/@ywrite](http://www.youtube.com/@ywrite)

*Hello Friends,*

**Welcome to the 2024 yWrite Writers Conference.** Thank you for answering your call to the page today! There is no better time to pick up your pen and begin drafting that story which speaks the loudest to you.

*When I began attending writing conferences, I quickly fell in love with exploring new ways to tell a story. For years, I've been a "pantser" when it comes to writing. Writing what I felt called to write in the moment and not stopping until it was done. However, being introduced to writing classes, workshops, and conferences, I learned new tools to allow my pen to flow with improved storytelling techniques. I know today will empower you with that as well.*

*There is no one perfect way to tell a story and each of the instructors today have opportunities for you to find YOUR perfect way. Theresa Chamberland, Judith Breier, and Martha Johnson have unique offerings to help you get your memoirs and stories written, as does fiction writer Jacqueline Sheehan, Poets Don Fisher & Kateri Walsh, and Playwright Michael Buster McMahan. Our Keynote Speaker Kate Anderson will share what want-to-get published writers need to know about the industry. And I get to take part in the noontime panel sharing what happens after you publish.*

*Get your pens ready, introduce yourself and make new connections for your writing journey. Let the motivation and passion to write flow onto the page today and all the days after too!*

*Please take a moment to subscribe to the **yWrite** podcast on [YouTube](#) and follow me on **Facebook** for upcoming events! Each episode another writer shares their journey to help yours!*


*Enjoy the Day!*

*Angela Grout, Director of yWrite*

***A Big THANK YOU to the 2024 yWrite Volunteer yTeam:***

*Joan Shuman, Shelley Sullivan, Maureen Kivel, Jenna Gamelli, Theresa Chamberland, Betel Arnold, & all who helped to make this day successful.*

## Schedule of Events:

- 9:00 **Welcome Address** Angela Grout Main Room  
*Coffee & Tea Bread Station sponsored by WS Ecumenical*
- 9:15 **Prayerful Motivation** Main Room  
 With **Dr. EMILY HARRISON**, host of the podcast **LIVING YOUR HOLIEST HOT MESS LIFE** streaming on Spotify. She is a school counselor, Clinical Christian Counselor, Author, and licensed minister. Her daily scripture and prayer posts are found on Facebook and Instagram @hotmessprayers. Her book **TEACHING THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES** has encouraging prayers from her 35+ years in education. Learn more about Emily on **Episode 51 of yWrite**. Her books are available on Amazon.
- 9:30 **Morning Sessions (ends at 11:15)**
- A→ Techniques for Catching Stories for Your Memoir** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor- Room A  
*With Theresa Chamberland*  
*If you don't tell your story, who will? Engage in memory-focused writing exercises with Theresa Chamberland, from StoryCatcher Studios, as your guide. A brief exercise will introduce you to the world of video memoir; no recordings will occur.*
- B→ Legacy Writing** with Judith Breier 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor- Room B  
*Uncover deep lessons from your experiences with the sacred art of Legacy writing. Honor the journey which has shaped you. Be seen, remembered and share your hard-earned wisdom for loved ones and future generations.*
- C→ Defeating Writer's Block Through** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor- Room C  
**"What I should've said" Dialogue** with Michael Buster McMahan  
*When facing the great white bull of the blank page, and your usual tricks can't inspire you, you can find a story from a past life event that only you can tell. This class will take that and show you how to make it turn out differently.*
- 11:15 **Bookstore Opens** Back of Main Room  
*Valuable Vendor Showcase for Writers and Readers*  
*Area Writing Groups will have sign-up sheets!*  
*Information/Sign-ups on Writing Classes, Publishing, Editing, Illustrators, and More!*  
*Buy one of our Instructor's Books and get it signed!*
- 11:30 **Lunch:** (we will call out 6 raffle tickets now & the remainder at 4pm) Main Room  
*Sandwiches provided by Richard's Grinders*
- 12:00 **Marketing Your Work Panel Q & A** Main Room  
*Jacqueline Sheehan- Published Author* *Angela Grout*  
*Robyn Miller- Media Expert* *Betel Arnold, Playwright*  
*Don Fisher- Poet*

**Our Luncheon Keynote Presentation**

- 12:30**     **Kate Anderson: Which Way to Publish?**     Main Stage  
Award-winning Author and Owner of Otherwords Press, she is an expert in understanding publishing needs and the different markets.
- 1:00**     **yWrite Group Photo**     Main Stage  
*All participants are invited & encouraged to join a group photo!*
- 1:15**     **Afternoon Sessions (ends at 2:45)**
- A→ Show Me How You Feel- Workshop**     2<sup>nd</sup> Floor A  
*With Jacqueling Sheehan*  
*This developmental workshop experiments with ways to slip into the character's skin and bring emotion & experience to the reader with very little explanation by the writer. The body offers a pathway to draw us closer to fictional characters. Taking advantage of psychological science can help communicate emotion. Learn how to use body language to inform the reader of something even the character may not be aware of.*
- B→ The Write Space**     See list.  
*Personal Quiet Self-Paced Space- no instructor*
- C→ Sample, Write & Submit!**  
**How writing groups enhance your writing**     2<sup>nd</sup> Floor B  
*With Kateri Walsh & Don Fisher*  
*Explore your creativity as you experience a writing group to sample and learn about submitting to their anthology.*
- D→ Writing to Heal**     2<sup>nd</sup> Floor C  
*With Martha Johnson*  
*The powerful use of writing prompts guides you to release what is holding you back. Loss, transition, fears, confusion, and more. will be addressed to enhance your writing process. Sharing will be at the discretion of the writer.*
- 3:00**     **OPEN MIC Program & Writer's Chat**     Main Room  
*Sign-up at the welcome table. Limit to 4 minutes per person.*  
*(Use the notecards on the table to write notes to the reader- put their name on it!)*
- 4:00**     **Raffle Winners Announced**     Main Stage  
*If your name/number is called- come pick a prize!*
- 4:15**     **Closing Remarks**     Angela Grout     Main Stage

*~You are Exactly where you needed to be today because...  
Your story is part of why this world is beautiful. ~*

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# **Save The Date!** **(always the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of** **November!)**

→ **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2025** ←

*yWrite 2025 Writers Conference*

*The Bookstore will close at 4:30 and the building will close at 5pm.*

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***Please join the Facebook community of yWrite***  
***@ [www.facebook.com/ywritenow](https://www.facebook.com/ywritenow)***

***Subscribe to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/@ywrite](https://www.youtube.com/@ywrite).***  
***Learn more from writers just like you!***

If you or an author you know would like to be a guest on the podcast yWrite with Angela Grout, email [angelamgrout@gmail.com](mailto:angelamgrout@gmail.com)

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## **Call to ACTION!**

We encourage you to take the time to support each other!  
Ways to support a creative Writer:

- Review, Share & Recommend their books, posts and shows.
  - Subscribe to their podcasts, pages, and newsletters.
  - “like” them on Social Media Platforms.
- Buy their work, Read their Books, Attend their Events.

# Meet the 2024 yWrite Team: Our Facilitators & Speakers



**Kate Anderson, Keynote Speaker** An award-winning author, and the owner of **Otherwords Press**, an independent publishing imprint representing authors from all over the world. She has successfully written several books, including **BEHIND THE WALLS**, a volume on the history of insane asylums institutions in New England, **HOSPITAL HILL**, and its companion novel, **SHADOWS IN THE WARD**. She is a special education teacher and architectural photographer who leads a lecture series on the history of mental illness and its treatment. She is currently hard at work on a number of asylum projects. Kate will be featured on yWrite this December, so subscribe to the podcast today! Contact Kate through [www.thekatherineanderson.com](http://www.thekatherineanderson.com). Note that Otherwords Press does not take unsolicited material.



**Betel Arnold**, Author, and Playwright. Her plays include *Tight Pants* (the Majestic Theater), *The Building* (Silverthorne Theater Project), *It Is Finished* (Northampton 24-hour Theater Project), and *El Colmado* (WNEU). She has received MA State Awards for her *Dedication for Work with Persons with Disabilities*, as well as the *Angel Award of Hope, Flight & Freedom* from the Brianna Fund for Children with Physical Disabilities (2006). Her book **BENEATH THE WORDS** inspires women to become all that. Betel is featured on *Episode 4 of yWrite*. Contact Betel @ [betela\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:betela_99@yahoo.com)



**Judith Breier** a Certified Sage-ing Leader, Life Legacy Facilitator and Trainer, End of Life Doula, and ordained Kohenet. She offers workshops and listening sessions which results in reclaiming the aging process as an empowering and necessary journey for life fulfillment and life completion. She guides writers on how to share lessons from past experiences to bless future generations through life legacy letter writing. Watch *Episode 40 of yWrite* to learn more about her and this unique process. Contact Judith @ [journeytotheheart.net](mailto:journeytotheheart.net)



**Theresa Chamberland** Writing Instructor, Memoirist, Video Editor, and Story Catcher. She enjoys helping people capture their stories and preserve their legacy in print and video. Theresa teaches Creative Writing and Memoir classes at the Springfield Museums and in small groups at other locations. Her classes give writers time each week to focus on writing their stories and receiving feedback from others in the group. Classes are 3 hrs./wk. for her 5- and 10-week sessions. Watch *Episode 16 of yWrite* to learn more about why she writes. Contact Theresa @ [www.storycatcherstudios.com](http://www.storycatcherstudios.com).



**Donald Fisher** Poet and writer of fiction & non-fiction for over 40 years. His book *ON THE EDGE OF GRACE* is a collection of his poetry. He co-facilitates Write-Up Springfield. For more information on him and Write-Up Springfield. Watch *Episode 15 of yWrite* to learn more about why he writes! Contact Don @ [drfisher1958@live.com](mailto:drfisher1958@live.com)



**Angela Grout** A retired florist who now makes other “arrangements” by creating novels, scripts, and producing televised podcasts. She is the Director and Producer of *yWrite*, and the co-Producer of other things, including- a Televised Radio Playhouse (see Buster’s Bio). She is currently editing her fifth novel and a poetry book, as well as beginning the process of scheduling a reading of her play **IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT** (stay tuned!). When she isn’t

writing, she interviews authors on her podcast *yWrite* and assists writers with formatting and publishing their books. Watch *yWrite Episode 59* where she is the interviewee!



**Martha Johnson** Professional Facilitator/Coach, Retired Business Owner, Former Manager of the US National Parks, and a proud late-in-life published author. She is the author of two volumes of thought-provoking questions with gentle guidance called **MUSINGS ALONG THE WAY**. Her first book, **WHY NOT SO WHAT YOU LOVE** guides people into moving into the next chapter of their life Her motivational presentations **THE WILLINGNESS CHECK and THE BREAKTHROUGH APPROACH** have been welcomed at conferences around the globe. She will be featured on an upcoming episode of *yWrite*. Contact Martha @ [www.meetingmarthajohnson.com](http://www.meetingmarthajohnson.com)



**Michael Buster McMahon** “Buster” is no stranger to the stage, as a former comedian, actor, and director. He has written over 50 short plays and counting. He won the People’s Choice Award for his play “OW WOW!” and his full-length comedy “SANCTUARY MUCH!” will be presented as a staged reading by the Exit 7 Players in Ludlow next March (mark your calendar!) Michael claims to be the 27<sup>th</sup> most adorable person on local TV as his televised radio show “*That’ll Learn ‘Ya*” shares details of the stories behind the songs. He is also the Writer and Host of **the MICHAEL BUSTER MCMAHON TELEVISED RADIO PLAYHOUSE & USED TIRE COMPANY** which features his plays read by local performers and streams on YouTube, as well as his radio show. Michael has pitched two sitcoms to TV networks, had a successful run as a stand-up comedian in the 90s, and is currently restoring The Somers Inn restaurant with his family to create the **IRON FOX STEAKHOUSE**. Watch *Episode 44 of yWrite* to learn about his local Emmy Award! Follow his Facebook page & subscribe to see his show at “*Are You Going to Finish Those Fries Productions.*”



**Robyn Lee Miller** Owner of MorningBird Media, a social media management business which establishes and maintains storytelling through digital relationships. She is a retired biochemist who became a radio host and discovered a passion for social media consulting. She provides consulting services, workshops for organizations, and manages several social media accounts from law offices to business, and author platforms.



**Jacqueline Sheehan** Ph.D. is a bestselling novelist. Her first novel, **THE COMET’S TALE** is based on the life of Sojourner Truth. Her next two novels have become New York Times bestsellers! Her books, including **PICTURE THIS, THE CENTER OF THE WORLD**, and **THE TIGER IN THE HOUSE** have been translated into eight languages. She was the editor of **WOMEN WRITING IN PRISON**, a compilation from writing workshops with incarcerated women. She is one of the founders and past president of Straw Dog Writers Guild; and teaches writing workshops in Massachusetts and at international retreats. Watch *yWrite*

*Episode 30* to find out why she writes! Please visit her at [www.jacquelinesheehan.com](http://www.jacquelinesheehan.com).



**Kateri Walsh** Poet, Certified Yoga instructor and Vice President of NAMI in Springfield. She is the owner of Mindfulness Yoga with Kateri, and the co-founder of Write-Up Springfield, a monthly writing group open to everyone of all ages & free of charge. She is orchestrating a publication for participants in Write-Up Springfield so consider joining her on the second Saturday of each month. Watch *Episode 15 of yWrite* to learn more about the writing group. Her website is [www.mindfulnessyogawithkateri.com](http://www.mindfulnessyogawithkateri.com) . Email her at [walshkateri@gmail.com](mailto:walshkateri@gmail.com)



## Thank you to Our Silver Pen Sponsors

**AMELIA & ALBERT FERST INTERFAITH FOUNDATION, WESTFIELD**

**EMBRACING THE CREATIVE CHILD, EAST LONGMEADOW**

(The Silver Pen Sponsors provided scholarships and subsidized tickets for all!)

## Special thanks to all our Sponsors & Supporters

Please support those who give their support to make this yWrite Conference possible including...

*Agawam Cultural Committee*

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*Dr. Madonna Santos, Agawam*

*M & T Bank*

*Shuman Foundation, Agawam*

*Story Catchers Studio, South Hadley*

*WS Ecumenical Outreach*

*Blue Bell Book Bar & Cafe*

*Special Appreciation to the Agawam Senior Center Staff, Studio 954, and especially Mr. Les Tingley for today's accommodations.*