

Multicultural Women Writers Salon

Creating a Journal of Ethnic Voices

LEARN TO TELL YOUR STORY IN SIX MONTHS!

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon meets online via Zoom each Saturday, 1:30–3:30 PM. With several in-person events at the Low Tide Yacht Club, New Bedford, MA announced separately.

Every family has a unique story to share. If you've thought about telling yours, then join our circle of multicultural women writers. Each Saturday we will come together online to develop our storytelling ideas. These online meetings will help to set goals, track progress, and motivate work on five to ten pages as part of creating a journal of multicultural women's voices.

This experience will help you create a chapter in a story about yourself or a multicultural woman who has inspired you. You will work independently during the week and turn in your draft on the following Saturday.

After completing the writing and craft modules, we will assemble the stories into a hardcopy magazine-style anthology, then host a publication party inviting friends and family to share our work — a total of six months from first session to published journal.

Seating is limited to a handful of mature, self-motivated women prepared to commit six months to developing and completing a story.

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Online Classes: www.eworkstyle.org

Class Resources & Presentation Materials Available Online In Each Class

WHY A MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS SALON

Multicultural voice refers to our belief in the co-existence and acceptance of multiple cultures within a society. We are promoting the idea that different cultural groups can co-exist peacefully and contribute to a richer, more vibrant world. Our journal is intercultural — acknowledging with respect the values, traditions, and beliefs of women across different cultural groups. We are bringing women's voices to the world as we share stories of personal evolution, fundamental equity, healing, and community-building left untold in broadcast and web media.

We do this because when news spreads crisis, or movies and TV shows spread violence, people need to balance those negatives with informative, helpful, and inspiring stories — important to human development. Through the work of this journal and others we have created like it, we map the long road toward economic inclusion, beginning with communications empowerment. We are also donating time and web space to showcase human-interest stories of compassion, as well as the fantastic work being done by individuals dedicated to creating positive change.

In communities across the melting pot of the United States and around the globe, people are connected to their relatives, friends, and families. Our objective is to get all people past feeling globalization is solely about corporate enhancement by teaching those underserved how to research, assess, discuss and solve problems at home and abroad. We believe globalization is about individual learning, professional growth, and self-empowerment.

We also provide free and open courses that cover communications for the digital age. Women writers can reach more people as they create in-depth discussions on life, living well, human struggles, and local to global developments by taking advantage of communication tools and web innovation. The future of a healthy world depends on helping multicultural women get and stay contemporary so they can take care of themselves, their families, and their communities.

Values are in question, particularly for those historically devalued to the point of marginalization. Confusion reigns among those who speak more than one language. Globally, women are essential caregivers. Yet women are destabilized when they are underpaid — which eventually means an inability to afford retirement. Regardless, women are a significant force in our communities, often taking on unpaid roles from feeding other families to civic leadership, while societal expectations and equity challenges persist.

Along with our peer-to-peer salon discussions, we are developing a web-based institute with customized classrooms, lecture halls, and a citizen's panel for self-paced and instructor-led learning, as well as local, regional, national and global culture talks with community-based stakeholders and professional lecturers.

Respectfully,

Paula

Paula Robinson Deare, Multimedia Cultural Practitioner

Three-time MIT Alumna — MIT Urban Studies & Planning Fellow '91, '02 | MIT Sloan '12

MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS SALON OVERVIEW

"Writing is the way you can turn it all off and just listen to your own mind, voice, heart and soul." — Paula Robinson Deare, Instructor

What this course is

The Power of Writing is a twelve-class course built for people who have stories worth telling and want the professional skills to tell them well. Every class follows a four-quarter structure — Introduction, Critical Consciousness, Competitive Intelligence, and Conclusion — so that each lesson opens, deepens, challenges, and completes one dimension of your writing practice.

Who it draws from

This course draws its best practices from three kinds of professional writers: deadline writers such as journalists and broadcast reporters who produce clear, accurate, compelling stories under daily pressure; creative writers such as memoirists and authors who develop one story over months into something lasting; and business and technical writers who must enter any professional arena with words that work. You will learn from all three.

What you will learn to use

Because writing has grown with every medium it inhabits, this course teaches you to work with the tools available now: artificial intelligence, digital research, interview techniques, archiving, social media, and the global networks that can carry your story around the world.

Why writing matters now

This course was put together to teach enjoyable and effective best practices in writing, not English-class grammar, but writing for storytelling. Why this is important: we are experiencing times of cultural intolerance and erasure. Erasure refers to the act of removing, blotting out, or destroying something, such as written text, magnetic recordings, or digital data. It signifies complete elimination, often implying the destruction of information to prevent recovery. Erasure is also used to describe the exclusion of minority groups from history or the removal of records. What is equally important to the act of writing is the commitment to values, accuracy, and research. These are the primary commodities that build integrity, and they will come across in everything you write.

Writing as self-discovery

Writing is not only a form of self-expression. It is the method you can use to get into your own mind and heart — to discover what you have forgotten, and to polish what you want to say. Reflective practice in writing is the soulful, conscientious expression of your experience, whether shared with others or not.

Your invitation to begin

Feel free to use this course to write the way you truly feel: speak out, persuade, lecture, teach, tell jokes, enlighten, sell, convey, correct, inspire, entertain, empower — but most of all, write to communicate your story.

MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS SALON CONCEPT

A salon is a gathering of people held by a host. The salons of early modern France were social and intellectual gatherings that played an integral role in the cultural development of the country. Salons became a center of intellectual conversation, as well as a debate stage for social issues. In contrast to other early modern institutions, women played an important and visible role within the salons. Each woman, or salonnière, played a different role — some actively involved in conversation and debate, while others used their connections to bring people together and spread Enlightenment ideas.

The multicultural women writers' experiences provide a unique opportunity in leadership development, civic engagement, and service to the community. Based on the salons of early modern France, women writers will come together in intellectual gatherings to play an integral role in the development of voice in their culture, community, and country. Throughout this experience, participants will enjoy close-knit mutual support and an intercultural exchange of ideas through Saturday discussions, community immersion, cultural exposure, and project development.

As Ambassadors: Participants will create stories that develop social capital and help promote sustainable communities that foster pride of culture to empower people underserved by media. Skills will be developed to empower underrepresented communities to understand their potential, strive for success, and fulfill their individual capabilities.

As Leaders: The Multicultural Women Writers Salon puts its educational stock in building human capital as the first step in building sustainable communities. We partner with community organizations for fundraising support to create outreach and pilot programs that motivate participants toward developing awareness of self and their voices through storytelling.

As Community Voice: The new age of information warfare isn't new — literacy has always been used to disrupt and polarize critical thinking through disinformation and misinformation. We need community voices not only to teach writing and resistance, but to help women stand up for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Participation & Responsibility: Research participation and writing are expected during workshops and during the week following. Participants are responsible for listening and responding respectfully, engaging in group activities, and completing given assignments. Plagiarism will be discussed in detail — participants must properly credit all sources and may not submit work prepared by others.

INSTRUCTION, SERVICE LEARNING & WORK EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTION: Our writing curriculum includes journalism methods in telling a story, composing a sentence, defining a paragraph, sequencing paragraphs, and editing under a deadline. Stories written embrace the concept of writing for empowerment. We work on what participants already know: family and community roots. Participants are asked to embrace their cultural identities by including distinctive experiences, associations, and lessons learned that formed their outlooks on life.

Writing personal stories requires participants to define themselves in every way they believe true, with a surety of values that are wholly untouched by others' definitions. We use jury-style observation as training to help women learn how building human capacity can invigorate communities quickly. We introduce women writers to authorship with techniques and role models of excellence and innovation so they can independently write and produce stories of culture, commitment, and pride.

SERVICE LEARNING: Women writers learn leadership skills through independent research and jury-style presentation of information delivery. We feed cultural and social knowledge via lecture and discussion mixes with contemporary predispositions using today's news, social media storylines, and

historic backdrops. Multicultural women writers will develop a Personal Writing Portfolio including a biographical essay, personality photos, and review stories as part of their participation.

WRITING EXPERIENCE: Participants become content developers, trainers, facilitators, and presenters in this salon experience. They will plan, discuss, design, manage, and implement events from issues and audiences to strategies, with rehearsals. Writing experience includes field research and evaluation of tools, methods, and the development of storytelling from journalism and script writing to journal product development. By the time they complete the program, participants will have earned an author's experience toward the production of a book, should they choose.

What to Expect This Year

The salon runs in three phases across six months. Here is what each one gives you:

April – August: Writing & Craft: You will find your story, understand our audiences, and learn to transform a memory into a publishable narrative. We draw techniques from journalists, memoirists, and cultural storytellers. Every session builds on the last.

September: Journal Production: Your finished story enters professional production. You will see your name, photographs, and words in a full-color journal designed to last. We host a graduation book signing with community, a celebration you will have earned.

November & December, Independent Readings & Outreach with the publication: As trainers and publishers, we will share your story at community readings and cultural events. You are welcome to attend\ speak as a recognized, published author.

HOW INDEPENDENT STUDY WORKS: Saturday Classes with Independent Study Weekdays

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon is customized for instruction in writing and media production. Each participant will work independently during the week with support as needed to create stories that add to the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal. Below is a set of suggestions for weekdays.

Monday: Develop new ideas using a brainstorming session. Try solutions to issues and ideas from last Saturday's class.

Tuesday: Explore your computer and web-search services.

Wednesday: Introduce yourself to the world via travel and cultural sites online.

Thursday: Merge brainstorming ideas with notes created from the above experiences toward creating a page or chapter in your story or bio.

Friday: Create a summary page based on the work you've been putting in throughout the week.

Saturday: Classes run from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS SALON

Instructor Bios

Our training and growth activities are designed to help you maintain innovative, professional, and management expertise from shared web learning opportunities to workshops, courses, and development conferences. Contact us with your training needs.

Paula Robinson Deare

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Paula Robinson Deare (three-time MIT Alumna — MIT Urban Studies & Planning Fellow '91, '02; MIT Sloan '12) brings communications technical knowledge, assistance, and training from the print, radio, and television industries. Prior to entering Public Relations with Fox Broadcasting, she served as a newspaper graphic designer, magazine columnist, radio talk-show host, and producer/host for cable TV in metropolitan Boston, MA. After building a number of multimedia technology production labs and a state-of-the-art lecture hall in Boston, Paula received recognition awards from the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the City of Boston, and the State of Massachusetts. She then grew the place-based communications training curriculum into a web-based Institute. Paula holds an MIT Sloan School of Management certificate in Global Strategy and Innovation and was granted the MIT Urban Studies & Planning Community Fellows Excellence in Media and Technology award. Paula Robinson Deare established Eworkstyle Institute in 1995 and has served as CEO and Communications Media Instructor for thirty years.

V. Paul Deare

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Vincent Paul Deare (M.L.S., M.S., CAGS Ed., Ed.D. ABD) has a background in the development of cities, in conjunction with 40 years of college-level instruction. Paul has worked as a project consultant for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, co-founder of the Caribbean Center for Understanding Media (U.S.V.I.), funding manager for the Massachusetts Council on the Arts & Humanities, and co-founder of BNN-TV Public Access Foundation. He has served on the boards of WGBH TV and the Boston Public Library. Paul is an award-winning producer of public and cable TV with experience at all levels of community revitalization, from grass-roots to civic leadership in Massachusetts, New York, California, the Caribbean, and China. Paul was a founding faculty member and prior learning coordinator for Springfield College School of Human Services, Boston Campus, where he taught for nineteen years. He specializes in issues and policies of social equity, neighborhood development, and economic recovery. V. Paul Deare serves as Livable Communities Instructor.

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