

## 2022 Writing Camp Information Packet

*Produced in partnership with the Shepherd Park Library and the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library and through support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Cornelia T Bailey Foundation, and Learn24.*

The mission of Day Eight is to contribute to the healing of the world through the arts. Our programming includes a literary magazine, *Bourgeon*, poetry book publication, a journalism program including an arts writing fellowship, production of exhibitions and performances, and programming for children and youth. Day Eight's Writing Camp brings together faculty from our poetry and journalism programs to enrich and inspire young writers.

On a weekly basis, students in the program:

- Generate story and poem ideas.
- Work in supervised groups to practice writing, reporting, editing, and creative writing.
- Produce a story or poem for potential publication.

Summer 2022 the camp will run for five consecutive weeks, from June 27 to July 29, and participants may enroll for one week or multiple weeks. A total of twelve students will be enrolled each week, supported by two full-time staff members and weekly guest faculty. The final week of the camp in 2022 is a special "women and girls" week also open to adult women. Included below are answers to frequently asked questions, details for each week, and the bios of confirmed faculty members.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Where is the camp located? Is this in person?*

The 2022 camp will occur in person at the Shepherd Park/Juanita Thorton DC Public Library located at 7420 Georgia Ave NW, Washington D.C. The camp begins daily at 9:30am and ends at 4:30pm. The camp will follow DC government requirements regarding indoor masking, and all participants are required to provide proof of vaccination with enrollment.

*What is the daily schedule?*

Daily schedule outline:

9:30 Welcome and morning meeting  
10:00-11:30 Morning workshop with guest faculty  
11:30-12:15 Independent and group work period  
12:15-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-2:15pm Afternoon workshop with guest faculty  
2:15-2:30pm Break  
2:30-4:30 Independent and group work period

*How much does it cost?*

Thanks to support from Learn24 the camp is FREE for DC residents.

*How do I sign up?*

To sign up visit [DayEight.org](http://DayEight.org) and complete the online registration form. After the registration form is completed an enrollment packet will be generated. Enrollment will be confirmed once the completed and signed enrollment packet is returned to Day Eight. The enrollment packet includes information camp staff need to know – including about allergies and learning styles – along with a permission form for field trips and off-site (outdoor) writing labs, and whether or not a participant may leave the camp site independently for lunch.

*Can siblings attend?*

We are enrolling a maximum of twelve participants each day. If there is space we welcome siblings. Each student must be separately enrolled to attend. Only enrolled participants may attend.

*What age range is this camp designed for?*

We call this a High School Writing Camp and the activities are geared toward high school writers. There can be a big range in the writing of a 9th grader versus a 12th grader, and there may be some 7th graders with advanced writing skills. We encourage parents to follow their intuition in making enrollment decisions and we welcome attendees currently enrolled in middle and high school grades.

*Are snacks and lunch provided?*

Participants must provide their own lunches. If provided written permission from a guardian/parent participants may leave the building to get their lunch, otherwise participants are expected to stay with the group.

Snacks will be provided. The enrollment packet asks for preferences and disclosure of allergies; if necessary we will exclude foods to ensure individuals with allergies are able to participate.

*Are the faculty the same for all five weeks?*

No. The faculty are confirmed as follows:

June 27 - July 1: Jonetta Rose Barras, Regie Cabico, Ebone Bell, Joe Davidson, Gregory Luce

July 5 - 8: Jonetta Rose Barras, Regie Cabico, Kayla Randall, Sekethia Johnson

July 11 - 15: Jeffrey Banks, Anne Becker, Norah Vawter, John Johnson, Denaise Seals

July 18 - 22: Dwayne Lawson-Brown, Quetta Nelson, Lisa Traiger, Denaise Seals

July 25 - 29: Asha Watson, Holly Karapetkova, Ebone Bell, Casey Catherine Moore, Norah Vawter

## FACULTY AND STAFF BIOS (alphabetical)



**Jeffrey Banks** is poetically known as “Big Homey”. He’s worked with notable people such as the late Fred “Rerun” Berry, Gospel Singer Maurette Brown Clark, GRAMMY-Nominated Soul Singer and Television Star Syleena Johnson, Gospel Trailblazer Dr. Bobby Jones and others. He’s been featured in national media such as ESSENCE Magazine, Sirius/XM Satellite Radio, Radio-One Inc., the CBS Early Show and BLACK ENTERPRISE Magazine. He’s had the opportunity to perform across the USA and has done numerous engagements on East Coast college campuses. He was a 2018 finalist in Day Eight’s DC Poetry Project and is currently editing an afro-latinx poetry anthology to be published by Day Eight October, 2022.



**Jonetta Rose Barras**, author and award-winning journalist, has written investigative reports, breaking news stories and opinion editorials for many of the media organizations in the nation's capital: *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Washington City Paper* and *The Washington Times*. She currently writes a weekly column for the online news site THEDCLine.org. In 2018, Jonetta received a national fellowship from the prestigious University of Southern California Annenberg Center for Health Journalism and the Center for Child Well-Being—producing a groundbreaking print and broadcast series: *Between Academic Success and Failure in D.C. Public Schools: Unresolved Trauma*. In 2016, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Society of Professional Journalists D.C.

Chapter Pro. In 2008, Jonetta received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Trinity Washington University. She is the author or editor of several books including, *Discovering Me...Without You: Teen Girls Speak About Father Absence* (Esther Productions Inc. Books 2020); *Bridges: Reuniting Daughters and Daddies* (Bancroft Press 2005), Black Board bestseller *Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl: The Impact of Fatherlessness on Black Women* (Ballantine 2000 hardcover, 2001 paperback), *The Last of the Black Emperors: The Hollow Comeback of Marion Barry in the New Age of Black Leaders* (Bancroft Press 1998), and *The Corner Is No Place For Hiding* (Bunny and the Crocodile Press 1996). Her articles, essays and opinion-editorials have appeared in *USA Today*, the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Essence* magazine, the *New Republic*, the *American Enterprise* magazine, the *Washingtonian*, and more.



**Anne Becker**, the former poet laureate of Takoma Park, MD, is beginning her tenure as poet in residence at Pyramid Atlantic, a print-making and book arts studio and gallery in downtown Silver Spring, MD. She received an MA from the Writing Seminars, Johns Hopkins University, teaches at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD and offers tutorials for poets putting books together. Her books include *The Transmutation Notebooks: Poems in the Voices of Charles and Emma Darwin* and *The Good Body* (chapbook). Since 2001 she has led a special poetry workshop, *Writing the Body*, for those who have experienced life-threatening or chronic illness as patient, caregiver or family member.



**Eboné F. Bell** is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Tagg Magazine and Tagg Communication LLC. Noticing a lack of queer women represented in DC-area publications she decided to start a magazine and website to tell stories, provide resources and create events. Eboné was featured in *Forbes Magazine* as an "Inspiring Black Entrepreneur Changing Our World." In 2022 Tagg Magazine will celebrate ten years of telling stories, creating safe-spaces, and providing resources for the LGBTQ community. Each of the past three years Tagg Magazine has been named a "Top 25 LGBTQ-Owned Companies" by the *Washington Business Journal*. Ebone enjoys sharing her knowledge and passion at conferences and schools across the country as a diversity and inclusion keynote speaker.



**Regie Cabico**, is a Filipino American poet and spoken word artist. He has been featured on two seasons of *Def Poetry Jam* on HBO (produced by Russell Simmons) and has been called the Lady Gaga of spoken word. He is an "out and proud" gay man. Cabico is a critically acclaimed performance poet who won top prizes in the 1993, 1994, and 1997 National Poetry Slams. His poetry appears in over 30 anthologies including *Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café*, *Spoken Word Revolution* and *Slam*. He was also featured in MTV's "Free Your Mind" Spoken Word Tour. Regie is the recipient of three New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships for Poetry and Multi-Disciplinary Performance and he was artist-in-residence at New York University, and De Anza College.



**Joe Davidson** writes The Washington Post Federal Insider column. For 13 years he was a Washington and foreign correspondent with The Wall Street Journal. Before joining The Post in 2005, he was an editor with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. He is a founding board member of the National Association of Black Journalists and is in its Hall of Fame. At The Wall Street Journal, Joe covered a broad range of domestic issues and presidential campaigns. As a foreign correspondent, Joe was posted in South Africa during apartheid, before and after Nelson Mandela's release from prison and during his election as president of the "new" South Africa. He has reported from numerous countries in Africa and Europe and from China. Joe was in the charter class of Ethics Fellows at the Poynter Institute, where he also has been a visiting faculty member. He has conducted professional coaching seminars at the Gannett News Service, the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism in Johannesburg and the University of Maryland. For many years he was an adjunct professor at Temple and Howard Universities. Previously, Joe was a regular commentator on Morning Edition and All Things Considered at NPR, where he also was a weekly news analyst for News and Notes. He has been a political columnist for BET.com, a contributing editor to

Emergence Magazine and he has written for The Nation, Mother Jones, the Los Angeles Times and the Christian Science Monitor. Among his numerous television appearances are those on CNN, MSNBC, PBS and BET. He has been honored as a “Quiet Hero” kidney donor by the Johns Hopkins Hospital and as a “HistoryMaker” in journalism. Joe is the recipient of the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award and is in the Washington DC Hall of Fame. He is past president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists and a two-time Pulitzer Prize juror. Joe has a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Michigan and a bachelor’s degree in education/political science from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where he was named “Outstanding Male Graduate” and selected for its inaugural “Prominent Alumni” list. Joe lives in Washington with his wife, Bernardine (Dine) Watson. He has three sons and one beautiful granddaughter.



**John Johnson** was the 2018 winner of the DC Poet Project, an open to all poetry competition designed to support exceptional new poets. Through his win, Day Eight published Johnson’s book, *Love for Her*. Maryland poet laureate Grace Cavalieri called *Love for Her*, “A real find” and E. Ethelbert Miller wrote, “The poems are filled with wit, and wisdom.” A native Washingtonian and father of two, Johnson graduated from the University of the District of Columbia, and as a poet, playwright, actor, and producer is dedicated to capturing the narratives of African Americans in Washington DC.



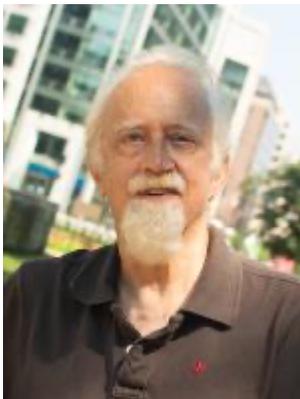
**SeKeithia Johnson** is an author and slam poet from Washington, D.C., who has been featured throughout the DMV and in California, New York, Chicago, Texas and Atlanta, GA. A teaching artist for Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission for over 10 years, SeKeithia has taught more than 3,000 youth to utilize poetry as a tool to maintain mental wellness. Beginning as a youth slam poet on Prince George’s County’s first youth slam team competing at Brave New Voices Poetry Festival to later being under the tutelage of the Legendary Watts Prophets, SeKeithia has both a passion and calling for poetry. Her first book, ‘Color Me Moor Royal’ was published in 2015.



**Holly Karapetkova** is the Poet Laureate of Arlington, Virginia. Her poetry, prose, and translations have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern Review*, *The Nashville Review*, and many other places. She is the author of two books of poetry, *Towline*, winner of the Vern Rutsala Poetry Prize from Cloudbank Books, and *Words We Might One Day Say*, winner of the Washington Writers' Publishing House Prize for Poetry. She lives in Arlington and teaches at Marymount University.



**Dwayne Lawson-Brown**, aka the "Crochet Kingpin", is a homegrown DC native poet, activist, break-dancer, and fashion designer. He is one of the hosts of DC's longest running open mic series, Spit Dat, as well as a member of the Busboys and Poets hosting team for the 450K location. Dwayne's short form poetry prowess led him to win the Best Haiku Award at the 2011 National Underground Spoken-Word Poetry Awards (NUSPA). His work to increase HIV awareness through spoken-word garnered recognition from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, BBCAmerica, the Discovery Channel, and The Washington Post. When not documenting his life through poetic meter, he can be found on the metro making scarves and hats or singing karaoke.



**Gregory Luce**, is the author of the chapbooks *Signs of Small Grace* (Pudding House Publications) and *Drinking Weather* (Finishing Line Press), and the collection *Memory and Desire* (Sweatshoppe Publications). His poems have appeared in numerous print and online journals, and in the anthologies *Living in Storms* (Eastern Washington University Press) and *Bigger Than They Appear* (Accents Publishing). He lives in Washington, D.C. where he works for the National Geographic Society. He is the 2014 winner of the Larry Neal Writers Award, awarded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.



**Casey Catherine Moore** is a bipolar, bisexual poet, writer, high school teacher, and activist. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of South Carolina with a focus on Classics, Women's and Gender Studies, and queer theory. Her writing centers gender and sexuality, particularly queerness and gender divergence, dis/ability and mental health, pop culture, LGBTQ+ rights, educational equity, and other social justice issues. Casey's work can be found in *The Comparatist*, *S/tick*, *You Might Need to Hear This*, *Horoscope*, and forthcoming in *Sinister Wisdom*. Casey has been a feature poet with Mind Gravy Poetry and Day Eight. At collegiate and high school levels Casey has taught Latin,

Greek, and Classics courses, as well as English and Creative Writing. Casey uses her background in theory and commitment to activism and justice to teach writing with an intersectional lens that values difference, incorporates real-world issues, and promotes equity.



**Shaquetta Nelson**, who publishes and performs under the name R.E.I.L (real), is the author of the book [Ashes to Justice](#) (published February 2022.) Poet Joseph Ross described the book: "The sorrow of abuse pulses under these poems. But so does the joy of double-dutch, a grandmother's love, and the truth of rebirth." R.E.I.L. started her poetry career at open mics in the D.C. area and at 16 competed in the Brave New Voices slam in New York City. A poetic performer, visual artist, and arts educator teaching in D.C. schools, R.E.I.L. found a passion in writing, but also in art. R.E.I.L uses wood burning and pyrography to design art beyond the words she can display in her poetry. She hopes to someday have a studio as an outlet for teens where she can use her poetry and arts to create that creative space.



**Kayla Randall**, is an editorial researcher and assistant editor with NPR's Public Editor Office, which focuses on journalism ethics. Previously, she was the arts editor at Washington City Paper. At the paper, she wrote about everything from [birth photography to the art of performing and producing The Washington Ballet's Nutcracker](#), from [local coyotes to cheetah conservation programs](#), from [spacesuits to glaciers](#) to [Legally Blonde](#). She's a Louisiana native who studied mass communication with a concentration in journalism at Louisiana State University. Good storytelling is what she loves most. Though she now resides inside the Beltway, she's always missing her mother's New Orleans home cooking.



**Denaise Seals** "Growing up, I was fascinated with the power of the screen. When I spotted a video crew on campus at Howard University, I realized that the medium that resonated so much with me didn't have to happen far away: it could happen here and now. I've never looked back. In the thirty years since then, I've meshed my training in both criminal justice and broadcast production into a career as a videographer, digital specialist, and arts educator, working with students of all ages in Washington, D.C. and beyond. I'm grateful to serve as a role model of a professional, artistic technician and thrilled to work within diverse communities of color. Throughout it all, my central questions remain the same: How can we create informed, confident, and invested youth? How does absorbing and creating media mold our

beliefs and those of others? How can we effectively and compellingly capture messages that can enact change? I always tell my students: 'Great ideas and stories are not just for your consumption. They are also for your creation. The best stories are the ones happening to you now, in your head, in your home, in your communities. Let's bring them onto the screen.'"



**Lisa Traiger**, an arts journalist and critic since 1985, wrote the dance column for The Washington Post Weekend section from 1999 to 2014 and was a freelance dance critic for the paper's Style section from 1997-2006. As arts correspondent, Traiger's pieces on the cultural and performing arts appear regularly in the Washington Jewish Week, where she has reported on Jewish drum circles, Israeli folk dance, Holocaust survivors, Jewish Freedom Riders, and artists from Ben Shahn to Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim to Y Love, Anna Sokolow to Liz Lerman. She has contributed to Ballet Review, Dance Magazine, Washingtonian, The Forward, Moment, Sondheim Review, Asian Week, New Jersey Jewish News, Bethesda Magazine, and Washington Review. The recipient of three Simon Rockower

Awards for Excellence in Arts Criticism from the American Jewish Press Association, in 2009 Lisa also shared a Rockower for reporting on a story about a shooter at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She received a 2021 award for religion reporting and a 2007 first-place award from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. In 2003, Traiger was honored to participate as a New York Times Fellow in the Institute for Dance Criticism at the American Dance Festival in Durham, N.C. She taught dance appreciation at the University of Maryland and presently teaches at Montgomery College's Rockville campus.



**Norah Vawter** is a freelance writer, editor, and the Local Authors Editor of online magazine DCTRENDING.com. She has an M.F.A. in creative writing from George Mason University. She's published in *The Washington Post*, *Memoir Magazine*, the WWPB anthology *This is What America Looks Like*, *The Nassau Review*, and *Stymie*, among others. She's querying her first novel, which was longlisted for the Dzanc Books Prize for Fiction. Norah started teaching creative writing when she was 17, leading workshops for kids at her local public library. Since then she's taught creative and expository writing at afterschool programs, summer camps, and Northern Virginia Community College. Norah lives with her husband and son in Northern Virginia. She's obsessed with the ocean, the stars, Fitzgerald, and

many types of coming of age stories. Find her online at [norahvawter.com](http://norahvawter.com) and on Twitter @norahvawter.



**Asha Watson**, originally from the Chicagoland area, is a woman who loves God, people, and language. She is a passionate mentor and youth advocate in her community. In 2011, she spearheaded the nonprofit organization Beauty Time, Inc., which is quickly becoming a national movement. As the founding President, she is passionate about her responsibility to help the next generation of young women discover and develop their beauty, both internally and externally. She facilitates workshops and events nationally to help with this mission. She is founder of the online parenting resource community called 'Auntie Asha's Village' where she, and others, share resources with parents and educators. Asha is also an author and speaker. After tragedy struck three times, she published three books in 2018 to

reclaim her year. Two of her books, *I'm Soul Be-you-tiful from A-Z!* and *You Are Soul Be-you-tiful*, are books of Affirmations for children. *Transfer Please* is a collection of poetic short stories about people riding public transportation. She originally fell in love with writing poetry at an early age and discovered her passion for short stories in her twenties. After moving to Virginia, she found a home in Silent Treatment Entertainment's "Comfort Zone" and became a part of the team that facilitates Spirits N Lyrics, the longest-running open mic in Northern Virginia. As a Spoken Word artist, she is known as "Purple Reign." Offstage, she is a breast cancer conqueror, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and community activist affectionately referred to as 'The Affirmations Queen' and 'Auntie Asha'. Asha resides in the DC Metro area.