

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership Levels & Benefits

Join online at americanwritersmuseum.org

Individual: \$40

- Unlimited free admission to the AWM
- 15% discount on AWM retail purchases
- Subscription to e-newsletter
- Member previews of new exhibits
- Invitations to members-only events such as author readings and lectures

Couple: \$70

- Same benefits as Individual, for two people in the same household

Family: \$90

- Same benefits as Individual, for two adults and all children under 18

VOLUNTEER

Support the American Writers Museum by joining our Storyteller Volunteer Program. AWM Storytellers interact with guests and assist with programs and special events.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Storyteller, contact us at volunteer@americanwritersmuseum.org.

DONATE

Be part of the American Writers Museum story! Your tax-deductible contribution will support exhibitions and programs that teach, surprise and inspire the reader and writer in all of us.

Donors of \$250 and up receive special benefits such as invitations to special events, author readings, lectures and exhibit previews.

Donate online at americanwritersmuseum.org/donate.

Stay up-to-date on news, events and more by connecting with us on social media.



Public Programs

May • June • July 2017



Program Calendar

May

16 Reading/Signing: *The American Spirit* David McCullough will read from and discuss his new book, *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For*. This collection of speeches by the most honored historian of the United States reminds us of who we are and what we stand for. Dr. McCullough will sign copies of the book, which will be available for sale at the event from The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.
Tuesday, May 16th, 1pm, Chicago Public Library Winter Garden 400 S. State Street. General public. Free.

18 Reading/Signing: *Revise the Psalm* Readings from *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writing of Gwendolyn Brooks*, an anthology of work celebrating the life and work of Gwendolyn Brooks, by editors Quraysh Ali Lansana and Sandra Jackson Opoku, with contributors.
Tuesday, May 18, 7pm, Readers Hall. \$5 suggested donation.

25 Road Music: Dennis McNally, author of the Jack Kerouac biography *Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, The Beat Generation, and America* and award-winning music historian, speaks about Kerouac's journey and the role music played as a "character" in *On The Road*.
Thursday, May 25, Readers Hall, 6:30pm. General public. \$5 suggested donation.

June

4 Build Your Own Scroll, Children's Edition: Do you want to get on the road this summer? Make your own travel journal with collaborating partner **BookClub Chicago's** artists and write your own journey! Participants will decorate and inscribe a fine paper scroll, using pen, ink, pencil and paint to tell their own story.
Sunday, June 4, Readers Hall, 2pm. Children 6+ with a caregiver. Free with Museum admission (children younger than 12 free).

6 Reading/Signing: *A Surprised Queenhood in the New Black Sun: The Life and Legacy of Gwendolyn Brooks* Award-winning writer Angela Jackson delves deep into the rich fabric of Brooks's work and world. Granted unprecedented access to Brooks's family, personal papers, and writing community, Jackson traces the literary arc of this artist's long career and gives context for the world in which Brooks wrote and published her work. It is a powerfully intimate look at a once-in-a-lifetime talent up close, using forty-three of Brooks's most soul-stirring poems as a guide.
Tuesday, June 6, Readers Hall, 5-7pm. \$5 suggested donation.

8 Printer's Row Preview Karen Halvorsen Schreck will read from and sign her historical novel *Broken Ground* (Simon & Schuster 2016), called a "masterfully written ... must-read" by *USA Today*. Her previously published historical novel, *Sing for Me*, was described as "impressive ... a well-wrought and edifying page-turner" (*Publisher's Weekly*, Starred Review). Her short stories and articles have appeared in *Hypertext*, *The Rumpus*, *Belt*, and *Image*, as well as other literary journals and magazines, and have received various awards, including a Pushcart Prize.
Thursday, June 8, Readers Hall, 5-7pm. \$5 suggested donation.

10-11 AWM at Printer's Row Lit Fest: Stop by the long-running Chicago literary festival and visit the American Writers Museum's tent to hear from Renee Rosen, author of *Windy City Blues*, as well as help write lines for the Story of the Day Exhibit and learn more about AWM's upcoming events.

13 Children's Author Storytime: On the second Thursday of each month, AWM welcomes a new children's author in its Children's Literature Gallery. Meet your favorite books' creators and illustrators, get your book signed, and hear a story from some of the most inspiring and creative children's authors writing today. *Presented in partnership with the Society of Children's Book Authors and Illustrators.*

June 13: Sallie Wolf, author of *The Robin Makes a Laughing Sound: A Birder's Journal*, *Peter's Trucks* and *Truck Stuck*. *For preschool-age children with a caregiver. Free. Museum admission not included.*

15 Build Your Own Scroll, Adult Edition: Make your own travel journal with collaborating partner **BookClub Chicago's** artists and write your own journey! Participants will decorate and inscribe a fine paper scroll, using pen, ink, pencil, and paint to tell their own story.
Thursday, June 15, Readers Hall, 5pm. \$5 suggested donation.

20, 27 Workshop: Memoir Do you want to tell your story? Is there a thrilling or historic tale in your family tree? Learn to make your history into memoir in a two-session workshop taught by **Annette Gendler**, Chicago Story Studio instructor and author of *Jumping Over Shadows: A Memoir*. Participants will outline and begin writing a memoir, receive feedback and have a chance to read their work.
Tuesday, June 20, 27 Readers Hall, 7pm. \$150 per participant.

25 Reading/Signing: *The Case of the Poached Egg* A reading and signing for kids with Robin Newman. Robin is the author of three books, *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep*, and two Wilcox and Griswold Mysteries, the most recent of which is *The Case of the Poached Egg*.
Sunday, June 25, 1pm, Readers Hall. Free with Museum admission (children younger than 12 free).

29 Poetry Among the Palms: Readings: Ed Roberson and other poets read W.S. Merwin and others inspired by nature and the outdoors among the exhibits at the Garfield Park Conservatory, along with kids' activities. Presented in partnership with the Poetry Center of Chicago, the Chicago Park District and the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance.
Thursday, June 29, Garfield Park Conservatory Palm House, 6pm. General public. \$5 suggested donation.

July

11 Children's Author Storytime: On the second Thursday of each month, AWM welcomes a new children's author in its children's gallery. Meet your favorite books' creators and illustrators, get your book signed, and hear a story from some of the most inspiring and creative children's authors writing today. *Presented in partnership with the Society of Children's Book Authors and Illustrators.*

July 11: Ilene Cooper, author of *A Woman in the House (and Senate): How Women Came to the United States Congress, Broke Down Barriers, and Changed the Country*, the *Absolutely Lucy* series and *Jake's Best Thumb*, among other books. *For preschool-age children with a caregiver. Free. Museum admission not included.*

12 Reading/Signing: *Identity Unknown: Rediscovering Seven American Women Artists* Who hasn't wondered where-aside from Georgia O'Keeffe and Frida Kahlo-all the women artists are? In many art books, they've been marginalized with cold efficiency, summarily dismissed in the captions of group photographs with the phrase "identity unknown" while each male is named. Donna Seaman brings to dazzling life seven of these forgotten artists, among the best of their day: Gertrude Abercrombie, with her dark, surreal paintings and friendships with Dizzy Gillespie and Sonny Rollins; Bay Area self-portraitist Joan Brown; Ree Morton, with her witty, oddly beautiful constructions; Lois Mailou Jones of the Harlem Renaissance; Lenore Tawney, who combined weaving and sculpture when art and craft were considered mutually exclusive; Christina Ramberg, whose unsettling works drew on pop culture and advertising; and Louise Nevelson, an art-world superstar in her heyday but omitted from recent surveys of her era.
Wednesday, July 12th, 5:30pm, Readers Hall. \$5 suggested donation.

13 University of Chicago Writer's Studio Master Series: *Searching for It in Jack Kerouac's On the Road* With its propulsive force and thrumming momentum, *On the Road* has long been heralded (and occasionally reviled) for its spontaneous prose style, a seemingly effortless translation of thought to the page. Beneath that surface is a hard-scrubbed effort, a mining of mind and craft that provides valuable lessons on the writing process and the struggles that define it. Through close reading, discussion, and in-class prompts, we will probe his use of point of view; commanding and sensory details; intimate and imagistic descriptions; and spontaneous prose. Mining his work challenges us to reach beyond what we *think* to get at versus what we *really* think, to discover the less evident, often uncomfortable mysteries that fuel writing that resonates and shimmers on the page.
Thursday, July 13, Readers Hall, 6-9pm. Cost: \$100...this includes museum entry.
In preparation for class, please read the first chapter and 6-10 in Part III of *On the Road*. For a digital copy, please contact writersstudio@uchicago.edu.

20 Workshop: Publishing: In today's crowded media landscape, how do you sell your book or short story? How do you make your mark with your writing? In this one-day workshop author David Berner (*October Song: A Memoir of Music and the Journey of Time*, Roundfire Press 2017) teaches you how to find your way through the complicated process of getting your words out.
Thursday, July 20, Readers Hall, 7pm. \$50 per person.

27 The Swiss Army Knife of Plants: A History of the Palm: The Horticulturist from the Chicago Park District conservatories discusses the history of palms, their botanical uses, and the palms in the historic Garfield Park Conservatory Palm House.
Thursday, July 27, Readers Hall, 5pm. General public. \$5 suggested donation.



Complete listings for all of our programs can be found at americanwritersmuseum.org.

Programs subject to change without notice.

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