



WRITING WORKSHOPS

2-5 PM

FINDING
HOME
WRITING &
PUBLISHING
IN THE GLOBAL
COMMUNITY
SATURDAY
MARCH 22



Angie Chuang, Author

Prose Workshop: Writing Difference, Writing the Universal

With Angie Chuang, author and Heather Buchanan, publisher,
Aquarius Press/Willow Books

Whether fiction, nonfiction, memoir, or essay, narratives of the human experience hinge on the creative tension between what is unique, even alien, about a narrator-author's experience, and what is universal about it. This dichotomy is particularly apparent than in stories about race, the immigrant experience, and culture. As authors, teachers, publishers, and editors, we look at examples from this literary tradition to discuss how a wide range of experiences and identities can be viewed through this dichotomous lens of uniqueness vs. universality.

**Participants can submit 5 double-spaced pages of work in advance for critique by a March 15 deadline to: <https://aquariuspress.submittable.com/submit>
Everyone will have the opportunity to generate new work and share it.*

Writing Home: Mining Our Personal Histories for Poems

With Angela Narciso Torres, poet and Ralph Hamilton, senior editor, RHINO

Ever since Wordsworth, personal history has been used as material for poetry. There is a rich tradition of bringing autobiography to one's poems beginning with the Romantic poets and continuing in the 20th century with confessional poets Lowell, Plath, Berryman, and Sexton. Marie Howe, Li Young Lee, and Sharon Olds are contemporary poets who largely draw upon personal experience in their writing. How do we transform our personal histories into poems that have a universal resonance? By looking closely at some strategies by which master poets have forged their life histories into enduring poems, we'll explore how we can "write home" in new and transformative ways. If time permits, we will do a generative writing exercise with the option to share our work. Appropriate for all levels.

**All participants are invited to bring ~17 copies of an original poem to workshop. Participants can submit a poem for advance critique, by emailing one poem to antorres@gmail.com by March 15. Please bring copies of the same poem to the workshop on March 22.*



Angela Narciso Torres, Poet

"Anybody who has survived his childhood has enough information about life to last him the rest of his days."

~Flannery O'Connor

BIOGRAPHIES

HEATHER BUCHANAN-GUERINGER is the owner of Aquarius Press, which in its 15th year, specializes in the work of writers typically underrepresented in the marketplace. Willow Books, the literary imprint, has published several of the nation's top emerging writers of color. This independent press has several signature projects, including the Willow Books Literature Awards, an annual LitFest, and a journal, *Reverie: Midwest African American Literature*. Heather is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan–Dearborn, where she has taught as an adjunct professor/lecturer. She has served as Poet-in-Residence for the Detroit Public Library system and on the Board of Governors for UM–Dearborn's College of Arts & Sciences Affiliate. A musician and playwright, Heather has served as COO of the Wayne County Council for Arts, History & Humanities.

ANGIE CHUANG is a literary nonfiction writer and educator based in Washington, D.C. Her debut book, *The Four Words for Home*, is forthcoming on Aquarius Press / Willow Books March 2014, as the winner of the 2013 Willow Books Grand Prize in Prose. Angie was a Ragdale resident in 2012, where she finished her book manuscript, and again in 2013. Her work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Asian American Literary Review*, and multiple editions of *The Best Women's Travel Writing*. She has also received fellowships and residencies from Yaddo, Hedgebrook, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Jentel, and others. She is on the Journalism faculty of the American University School of Communication.

RALPH HAMILTON is Senior Editor of the Poetry Forum/RHINO Poetry, a non-profit literary organization, primarily devoted to the publication of RHINO Poetry, an annual journal of over 37 years featuring high-quality, diverse poetry, flash fiction, and translations. RHINO also fosters a community of writers by presenting RHINO Reads! reading series, Poetry Forum workshop series, and by giving cash awards in support of outstanding poets. RHINO contributes to the vitality of Illinois' literary community, both through our editors' volunteer work with area literary events and causes, our participation at Chicago-area literary events, and through our annual Paladin Award.

SUSAN HARRIS is the editorial director of Words without Borders (www.wordswithoutborders.org) and the faculty supervisor for TriQuarterly (www.triquarterly.org). She is the co-editor, with Ilya Kaminsky, of *The Ecco Anthology of International Poetry*.

ANGELA NARCISO TORRES is a poet whose first book of poetry, *Blood Orange*, won the Willow Books Literature Award for Poetry. Recent work appears in *Cimarron Review*, *Colorado Review*, and *Cream City Review*. A graduate of Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Angela has received fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council, Ragdale Foundation, and Midwest Writing Center. Born in Brooklyn and raised in Manila, she currently resides in Chicago, where she teaches poetry workshops and serves as a senior poetry editor for RHINO.

DANIEL PARRA, from Mexico City, started his career in the literary world organizing book fairs throughout cities such as Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles. For many years he worked in the book distribution sector, to later become an editor and now a publisher. He is Director and Co-founder of 7Vientos Press (7V). The direction of his work has always had a global perspective and that is currently reflected on the books that 7V publishes.

JOHN RICH is the Director of the Guild Literary Complex, and is a founding member of Chicago Writers House and Chicago Book Expo. He earned an MFA in Writing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he also teaches writing and creativity in the Continuing Studies program. He is a recipient of the Vaclav Havel Fellowship in Playwriting from Western Michigan University and a Ragdale Foundation residency in writing. He co-founded the collaborative theater group Attention Deficit Drama and performs with Every house has a door.