

# Mt. Chocorua Writing Week at World Fellowship Center returns July 9-13, 2023

We write for many reasons. To explore. To understand.  
To make good trouble. For the pure pleasure of language.  
Writing is a way of walking in the world.

It has been a difficult three years. Writers tend to work alone and many of us feel isolated. After three long years, World Fellowship is returning to full operation and the writing week is back too.

Join **Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie** and **Ellen Meeropol** for five days of words and play in the natural beauty of the southern White Mountains. Join us for conversation about the art and craft of creative writing. What fires us? What connects us? Where do we find inspiration? How do we maintain a writing practice in a frenetic world?

This workshop will be a generative and generous space, less concerned with genres and critiques, more focused on connecting with our work, the natural world, and each other. For new writers, this week offers a playful way to discover the world of creating poems, stories, essays, and memoir. For more experienced writers, we hope for recharge and re-imagination, in community.

**Sunday, July 9, 2023, 7:30 pm: Gather** in conference room for introductions and conversation

**Monday, July 10, 10 am – noon: Your whole body writes.** Writing is way more than a hand moving a pen across paper or fingers touching computer keys, writing is an embodied experience. This playshop aims to help participants immerse themselves in their bodies and explore new wor(l)ds and ways of seeing through gentle movement, crafting, journaling, and writing exercises meant to wake up the senses.

**Afternoons** are for reading, writing, swimming, hiking, napping, talking, whatever fuels your muse.

**Monday, July 10, 7:30 pm: What's Love Got to Do with It?** Che Guevara said, "At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality." Ekere will read works focused on joy, love, and pleasure and engage in discussion about the role love plays in her radical art and artmaking.

Q & A to follow.

**Tuesday, July 11, 10 am – noon: It all depends on how you look at things.** Everything depends on your perspective, offered the 1946 children's book, *The Churkendoose*. Using images to jump-start our words, we'll inhabit various character voices to explore drama, emotion, and meaning.

**Tuesday, July 11, 7:30 pm: Understanding history through fiction.** The novelist Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa writes that “history reflects life from the outside in. Fiction reflects life from the inside out. One focuses on events, the other on the effects of those events on characters.” Ellen will read from her new novel, *The Lost Women of Azalea Court*, and talk about writing fiction based on real-life abuse of power. Q & A to follow.

**Wednesday, July 12, 10-12: Subverting old stories.** Children grow up with fairy tales and folk tales, with their messages of monsters and princesses, power and justice. We'll play with those iconic stories, subvert them and fracture them and twist them, to create something new that reflects the world we want to build. Think *Peter Pan* from Wendy's perspective!

**Thursday, July 13, 10-12: Your Whole Body Writes (part two).** In our second session we will continue where we left off in the first one while also considering ways we can play with language and form to free up our self-expression.

**Thursday, July 13, 7:30 pm: Open mic.** All participants are invited to read.

**Mt. Chocorua Writing Week is included in World Fellowship Center rates, along with three meals per day, use of Whitton Pond, hiking trails, boating & canoeing, and all regularly offered programs. There are a range of lodging choices at [www.worldfellowship.org](http://www.worldfellowship.org).**



**Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie** is the author of the award winning children's book *Layla's Happiness* (Enchanted Lion Books). She has authored two books of poetry: *Strut* (Agape Editions) & *Karma's Footsteps* (Flipped Eye) & *Dear Continuum: Letters to A Poet Crafting Liberation*. Ekere is a PhD Candidate in Theatre Arts & Performance Studies at Brown University. She is the mother of three galaxies who look like daughters.



**Ellen Meeropol** is the author of the novels *The Lost Women of Azalea Court*, *Her Sister's Tattoo*, *Kinship of Clover*, *On Hurricane Island*, and *House Arrest* and guest editor of the anthology *Dreams for a Broken World*. Her work has been a finalist for the Sarton Prize, longlisted for the Massachusetts Book Award, and a Group Reads selection of the Women's National Book Association. Ellen is a founding mother of Straw Dog Writers Guild.

