

Friday, November 13, 2026

FRIDAY DAY PASS GUIDE

www.manor-mill.com/events/writers-retreat

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- **Getting here:** Oldfields GPS destination is **1500 Glencoe Rd, Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152**. Enter at the **Service Entrance** on Glencoe Road (the "lower" road with a Welcome banner on the fence rail, not the main signpost entrance). *We recommend that you print the campus map and review it before travel.*
- **Parking:** Park in the **Rodney lot**, the first lot on your right, marked **P** on the campus map (see last page), then follow the marked path to check-in at Rodney Hall.
- **Meals:** Continental breakfast & coffee (8:00 a.m.) and lunch (12:00 p.m.) are served on Friday in the **Library**, with vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options available. Dinner is not included. *Delicious food provided by Panache Fine Catering.*
- **Sessions** run 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Each track has a dedicated room: Presses & Platforms in **Room 121**, Craft in **Room 124**, Community in **Room 134**, Poetry in the **Boardroom**. Escape From The Library! meets in the **Library stacks**.
- The campus has many stairs and inclined walkways — **bring good walking shoes.**
- Cell phone coverage can be limited on campus, so switch your phone to wifi calling if you can.
- **No smoking allowed anywhere on campus.**

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Email retreats@manor-mill.com
Tiffany Koch 917-318-1453
Administrator on Duty (AOD) for Emergencies: 443-690-1207

WIFI

Network: **OS Guest**
Password: **Welcome2OS1867!**
(letter O, not zero)

Friday, November 13

DAY PASS

All Friday and Saturday sessions will be held in the Library wing of Rodney.

TRACKS: PRESSES Presses & Platforms · **Room 121** CRAFT Craft / Review / Edit · **Room 124**
COMMUNITY Writing & Community · **Room 134** POETRY Practice of Poetry · **Boardroom**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.		Continental breakfast & coffee · *Library*
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	PRESSES	Preparing a Stellar Nonfiction Book Proposal · *Amy L. Bernstein*
	CRAFT	What Happens Next: Building Narrative Suspense · *Marian Crotty*
	COMMUNITY	Creative & Practical Approaches to Direct Book Marketing Events · *Jean Burgess*
	POETRY	Come On In. Now Get Out: Openings and Endings in Poetry and Prose · *Chrissy Stegman*
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	PRESSES	A Primer on Applying to Literary Magazines · *Mary Chuey Bishop*
	CRAFT	All About the View: Mining Visual Images for Character and Metaphor · *Patricia Meisol*
	COMMUNITY	First Class Delivery: Polishing Your Presentation for Readings · *Mel Edden*
	POETRY	Poetry About Fathers: Views and Strategies · *Sam Schmidt*
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.		Lunch · *Library*
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	PRESSES	6 Common Mistakes Writers Make — and How to Avoid Them · *Moriah Richard*
	CRAFT	An Embodied Approach to Writing Place · *Aurora Bonner*
	COMMUNITY	Resting and Reading the Body: Recentering the Self as Liberatory Practice for Creative Writing · *Tuesday Barnes*
	POETRY	Crafting a Poetry Manuscript: Trends and Techniques · *G. H. Mosson*
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	PRESSES	Ask Me Anything · *Michelle Jabès Corpora*
	CRAFT	Caffeinate Your Metaphors: Three Unusual Ways to Twist Metaphors to Grab a Reader's Attention · *Mary Chuey Bishop*
	COMMUNITY	Escape From The Library! · *Rita Baker-Schmidt* LIBRARY STACKS
	POETRY	Share & Care: Poetry Readings and Review

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Favorite writing materials
- ☐ Charger(s)
- ☐ Cash or credit card for purchasing books
- ☐ Business cards / contact info to share
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Sweater (and if rain is predicted, an umbrella)

Session Overviews

FRIDAY · NOVEMBER 13

9:00 – 10:15 A.M.

PRESSES **Preparing a Stellar Nonfiction Book Proposal** / *Amy L. Bernstein* ROOM 121
Every element of a nonfiction proposal, from overview to comp titles. Leave with a full outline.

CRAFT **What Happens Next: Building Narrative Suspense** / *Marian Crotty* ROOM 124
An interactive look at the techniques that keep readers turning pages, with published examples and specific strategies.

COMMUNITY **Creative & Practical Approaches to Direct Book Marketing Events** / *Jean Burgess* ROOM 134
A three-part approach to planning and running marketing events for your own book, with worksheets and a checklist.

POETRY **Come On In. Now Get Out: Openings and Endings in Poetry and Prose** / *Chrissy Stegman* BOARDROOM
First lines that demand attention and endings that resonate. Revise your own with submission in mind.

10:30 – 11:45 A.M.

PRESSES **A Primer on Applying to Literary Magazines** / *Mary Chuey Bishop* ROOM 121
What lit mags are, why to submit, and how to find the right ones — plus an insider's take on what editors want.

CRAFT **All About the View: Mining Visual Images for Character and Metaphor** / *Patricia Meisol* ROOM 124
Use portraits and photos to develop characters, and visual prompts to develop theme and plot.

COMMUNITY **First Class Delivery: Polishing Your Presentation for Readings** / *Mel Edden* ROOM 134
Prepare for a reading, engage an audience and polish your delivery. Bring one short original piece (250 words max).

POETRY **Poetry About Fathers: Views and Strategies** / *Sam Schmidt* BOARDROOM
Read poems to and about fathers, from Li-Young Lee to Sylvia Plath, to find ways into the father figures in our own lives.

1:00 – 2:15 P.M.

PRESSES **6 Common Mistakes Writers Make — and How to Avoid Them** / *Moriah Richard* ROOM 121
Six of the biggest mistakes writers make, drawn from work with 100+ debut authors, and how to avoid them.

CRAFT **An Embodied Approach to Writing Place** / *Aurora Bonner* ROOM 124
Explore how a place feels in the body, and how that shapes the way we perceive and write about it.

COMMUNITY **Resting and Reading the Body: Recentering the Self as Liberatory Practice for Creative Writing** / *Tuesday Barnes* ROOM 134
Rest, voice and embodied awareness as a path into a more creative space.

POETRY **Crafting a Poetry Manuscript: Trends and Techniques** / *G. H. Mosson* BOARDROOM
How four poetry books are structured, with brainstorms to map your own. Bring a draft manuscript or about twenty poems.

2:30 – 3:45 P.M.

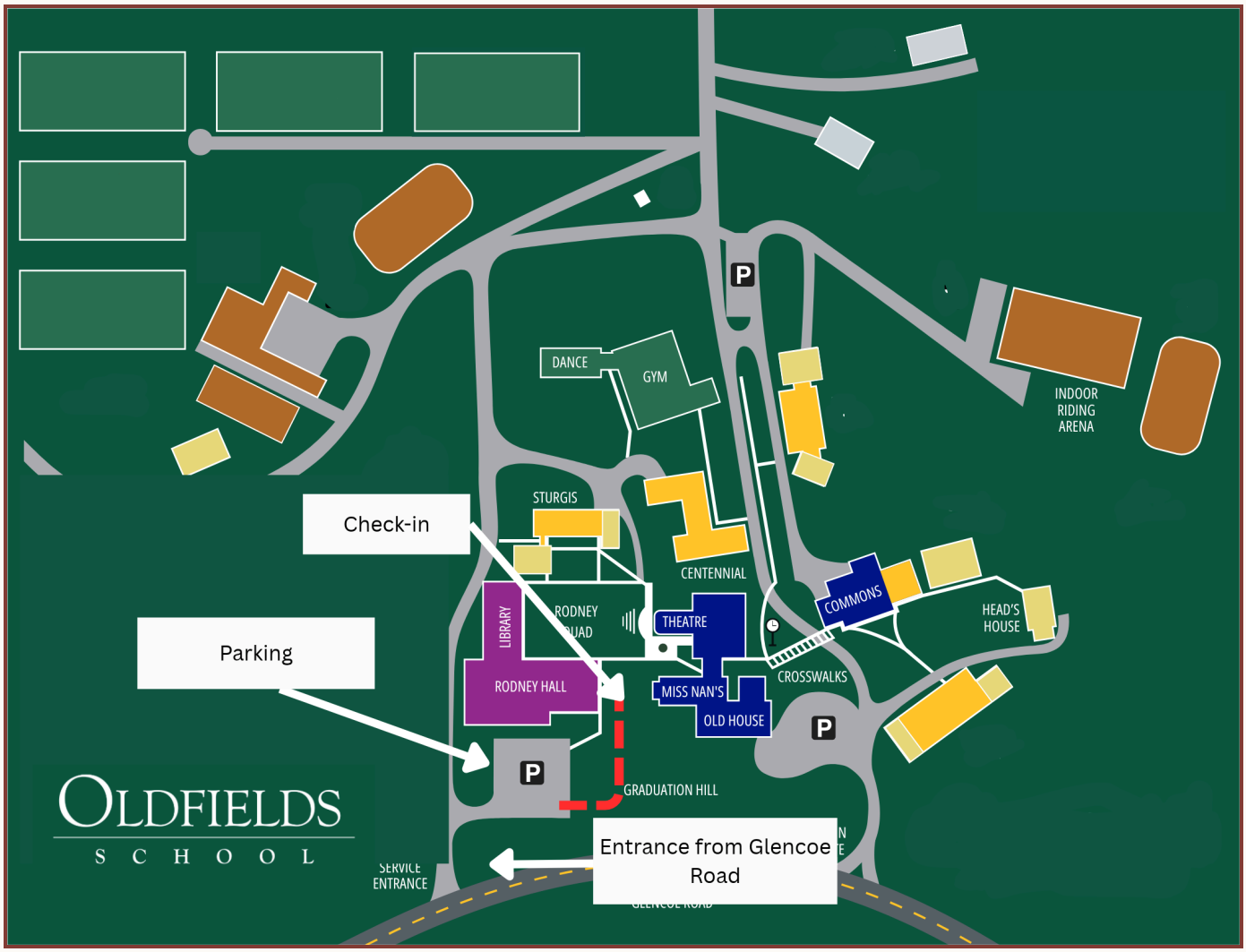
PRESSES **Ask Me Anything** / *Michelle Jabès Corpora* ROOM 121
Ask about traditional publishing, literary agents, book packagers and ghostwriting with a New York Times bestselling novelist.

CRAFT **Caffeinate Your Metaphors: Three Unusual Ways to Twist Metaphors to Grab a Reader's Attention** / *Mary Chuey Bishop* ROOM 124
Crashing, stacking and sensory mix-up: three ways to play with metaphors. Bring metaphors you've found in the wild.

COMMUNITY **Escape From The Library!** / *Rita Baker-Schmidt* LIBRARY STACKS
Join fellow writers for a challenging and fun exercise working together to solve a Library Mystery! We'll sort you into groups where you and your team will test your skills to find clues and solve puzzles related to five literary greats. This fun, interactive "escape" is a great way to wrap up your day — and to connect with new writer friends! *Note: this session is expected to last 40 minutes, and will be repeated again in this same time slot.*

POETRY **Share & Care: Poetry Readings and Review** BOARDROOM
Share your poetry and give and receive feedback in a supportive group.

OLDFIELDS CAMPUS MAP



CHECK-IN
Rodney Hall: follow the dotted line from the Rodney lot.

PARKING
Enter at the Service Entrance; park in the Rodney lot.

LIBRARY
Continental breakfast, coffee & lunch (next to Rodney Hall).