

November 12 – 15, 2026

OVERNIGHT GUEST GUIDE

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

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- **Arrival:** Oldfields GPS destination is **1500 Glencoe Rd, Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152**, at the signpost entrance. Follow entrance signs to the admissions/main office. Check-in is Thursday, 12:00–4:30 p.m. *A driver's license is required to check into the campus security system.*
- Once you have checked in and dropped off your bag at your dorm, move your car to **Jane Lot**, marked on the campus map (see last page) for the weekend.
- Dorm key and access code for entry to dorms and buildings provided on arrival.
- **Quiet hours** on campus are 10pm to 8am. Please limit any outdoor noise during quiet hours.
- Breakfast and dinner are served in the Oldfields dining hall; Friday and Saturday lunch is in the **Library**. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options available. *Delicious food provided by Panache Fine Catering.*
- Linens provided include sheets, pillow, light blanket, comforter, bath towel and washcloth.
- 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)

Schedule of Events

NOVEMBER 12 — 15, 2026

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**

THURSDAY NOV 12

12:00 — 4:30 p.m.	Check in to dorms · *Oldfields Main Office* Free time to write, explore campus & take a nature walk
4:30 — 5:30 p.m.	Shuttle to Manor Mill
5:30 — 6:30 p.m.	**Welcome Dinner** · *Manor Mill*
7:00 — 9:00 p.m.	**The Crankies with The Lantern Sisters** · *The Loft at Manor Mill*
9:00 — 10:00 p.m.	Shuttle back to Oldfields

FRIDAY NOV 13

7:00 — 8:00 a.m.	Drop-in yoga · *Gym Lobby* · *Yoga mats available* OVERNIGHT GUESTS
8:00 — 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast · *Oldfields Dining Hall*
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
4:00 — 6:00 p.m.	Dorm gatherings & gab sessions OVERNIGHT GUESTS
6:00 — 7:30 p.m.	Dinner · *Oldfields Dining Hall*
7:30 p.m.	Community get-togethers — readings, networking & connecting with your writing-genre companions OVERNIGHT GUESTS

SATURDAY NOV 14

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.		Drop-in yoga · *Gym Lobby* · *Yoga mats available* OVERNIGHT GUESTS
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast · *Oldfields Dining Hall*
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	PRESSES	Could a Small Press Be the Right Home for Your Book? · *Beth Ford*
	CRAFT	Stories in Miniature: The Spare Beauty of the Micro-Essay · *Jennifer Kinard*
	COMMUNITY	Social Media as a Writing Tool · *Mary McCarthy*
	POETRY	Good Morning, Good Night: The Aubade and the Nocturne · *Matt Hohner*
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	PRESSES	Picking Your Path: Options for Publishing · *Kerry Graham*
	CRAFT	Bring History to Life in Fiction · *Constance Hays Matsumoto*
	COMMUNITY	From Page to Stage: The Craft of Reading Your Words · *Emily Decker*
	POETRY	Sticking the Landing: Playing With Last Lines of Poems · *G. H. Mosson*
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.		Lunch · *Library*
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	PRESSES	The Human Experience: Create Compelling Settings for Fiction and Nonfiction Travel Narratives · *Theresa Pickett*
	CRAFT	Thinking Deeply About World-Building · *Moriah Richard*
	COMMUNITY	Fun with Collaborative Writing · *Alexandra Hewett*
	POETRY	Quiet Writing Session LIBRARY CARRELS
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	PRESSES	One Size Does Not Fit All: Finding the Right Home for Your Short Stories and Poems · *Will Remains*
	CRAFT	Raise the Stakes · *Barbara Morrison*
	COMMUNITY	Escape From The Library! · *Rita Baker-Schmidt* LIBRARY STACKS
	POETRY	Share & Care: Poetry Readings and Review
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.		**Gather & Gab** · *Library* End-of-day conversations & a chance to exchange contact info as the retreat ends
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.		Dinner · *Oldfields Dining Hall*
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.		**A Conversation with Stephanie Dray** · *Oldfields Theater* New York Times bestselling author of *A Founding Mother*, her portrait of Abigail Adams

SUNDAY NOV 15

7:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Check out of dorms & turn in keys
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast · *Oldfields Dining Hall*
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Free writing, wind down & fond farewells until next time!

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.

Session Overviews

SATURDAY · NOVEMBER 14

9:00 – 10:15 A.M.

PRESSES **Could a Small Press Be the Right Home for Your Book?** / *Beth Ford* ROOM 121
Finding reputable small presses, querying, contracts and launching — and whether a small press fits your goals.

CRAFT **Stories in Miniature: The Spare Beauty of the Micro-Essay** / *Jennifer Kinard* ROOM 124
A working session on the micro-essay, a form between prose and poetry where every word counts. Write your own.

COMMUNITY **Social Media as a Writing Tool** / *Mary McCarthy* ROOM 134
Use reels, hyperlinking and more to drive book sales or bring new readers to your Substack.

POETRY **Good Morning, Good Night: The Aubade and the Nocturne** / *Matt Hohner* BOARDROOM
A generative workshop on two poetic forms of morning and night, with writing time and supportive feedback.

10:30 – 11:45 A.M.

PRESSES **Picking Your Path: Options for Publishing** / *Kerry Graham* ROOM 121
Traditional, independent or small press: the most common paths to publication, with resources for each.

CRAFT **Bring History to Life in Fiction** / *Constance Hays Matsumoto* ROOM 124
Ground fiction in research and weave in just enough detail to heighten tension and emotion.

COMMUNITY **From Page to Stage: The Craft of Reading Your Words** / *Emily Decker* ROOM 134
A hands-on masterclass on reading your work aloud: pacing, emphasis, breath, tone and presence.

POETRY **Sticking the Landing: Playing With Last Lines of Poems** / *G. H. Mosson* BOARDROOM
Strategies for ending poems, then a generative workshop. Bring two copies of a draft poem or flash fiction.

1:00 – 2:15 P.M.

PRESSES **The Human Experience: Create Compelling Settings for Fiction and Nonfiction Travel Narratives** / *Theresa Pickett* ROOM 121
Move beyond a list of features to tell the story of a place only you can tell.

CRAFT **Thinking Deeply About World-Building** / *Moriah Richard* ROOM 124
The world-building basics every writer needs, in any genre, with dos, don'ts and exercises.

COMMUNITY **Fun with Collaborative Writing** / *Alexandra Hewett* ROOM 134
Improv, movement and group writing. Limited to 20; dress comfortably and bring a notebook and pen.

POETRY **Quiet Writing Session** LIBRARY CARRELS
Dedicated time to write quietly on your own.

2:30 – 3:45 P.M.

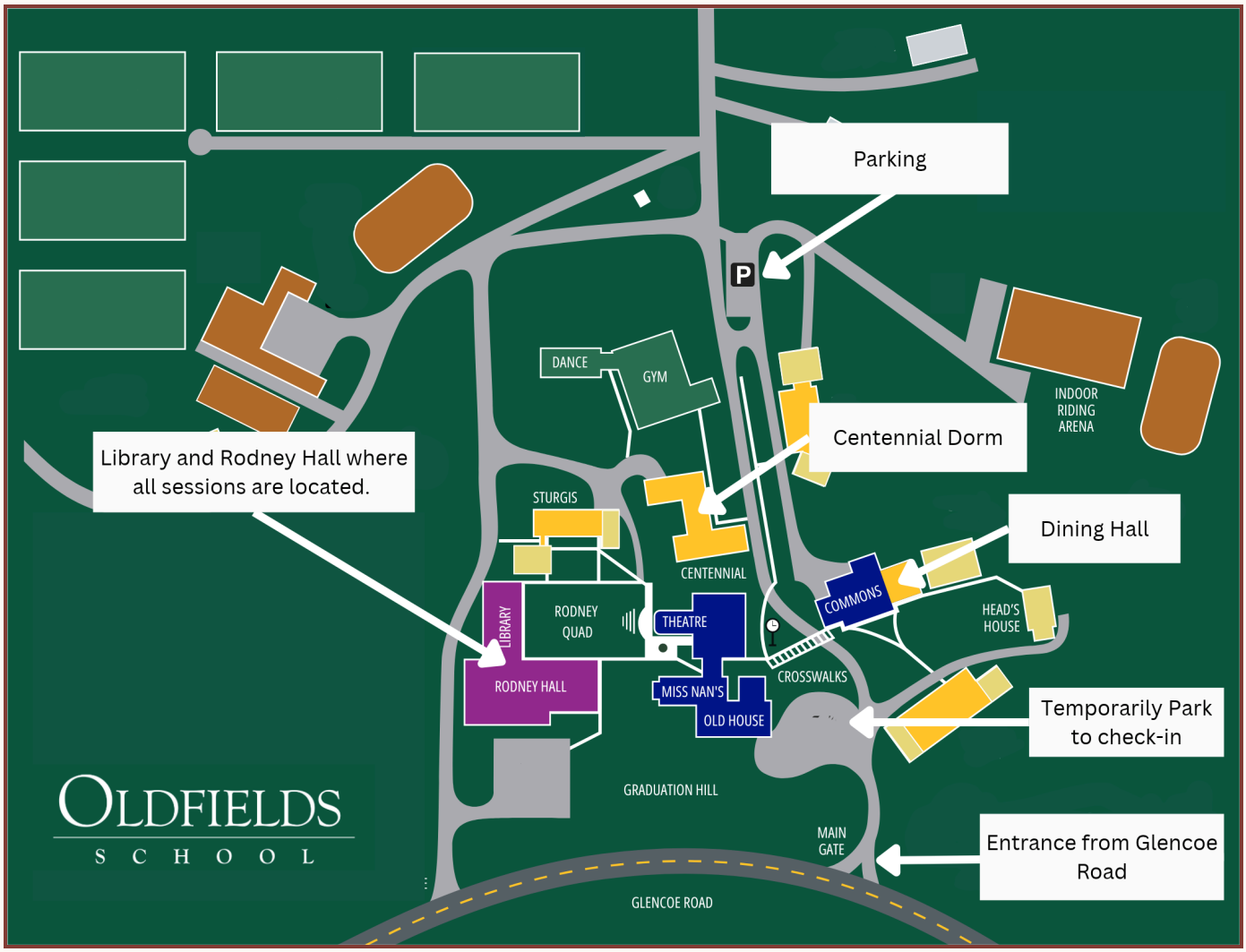
PRESSES **One Size Does Not Fit All: Finding the Right Home for Your Short Stories and Poems** / *Will Remains* ROOM 121
The do's and don'ts of submitting short stories, essays and poems to literary magazines, with practical advice for presenting your work, and yourself, in the best possible light.

CRAFT **Raise the Stakes** / *Barbara Morrison* ROOM 124
Make your story more engaging by increasing the risks and rewards for your protagonist.

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
Temporarily park by the main office to check in.

OVERNIGHT PARKING
Jane Lot, marked P on the map.

MEALS
Dining Hall in the Commons for overnight breakfast & dinner; lunch for all in the Library.