

2018 Presentation Schedule

January 3- March 7

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

For five weeks, we'll immerse ourselves in mindfulness poems from the recently published collection *Poetry of Presence* (Grayson Books, 2017). Poets in the collection include Mary Oliver, Naomi Shihab Nye, Wendell Berry, Li-Young Lee, Raymond Carver, Ellen Bass, Lucille Clifton, Octavio Paz, Nikki Giovanni, Kahlil Gibran, Rumi, Billy Collins, Charles Bukowski, Marge Piercy, and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. As the editors say, these are poems that "inspire us to live better, and to make our world better; at the same time, they grant us a taste of being good enough, just as we are, in this world, just as it is." Each week, we'll read and discuss these writings that, according to Fr. Richard Rohr, invite us to live "undefended," poems that lead us "into a deeper communion with the world."

Registration for the series is \$125. Participants will need to purchase a book prior to the class, available for \$21.95 online at poetryofpresencebook.com or through Amazon. To register, visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/weehawkenarts/Activity_Search/2581

January 10

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

January 17

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

January 23

Talking Gourds Poetry Club

Telluride, CO

Telluride Arts, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry and Art Goodtimes co-host this monthly reading series and open reading circle. This month's feature: Elissa Dickson For more information, call 970-729-1838

January 24

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

January 25-March 1

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

Public speaking. Ten percent of the population thrives on it. 10 percent would rather die. And 80 percent of us get butterflies and jitters, but make it through. No matter where you fall in this spectrum, this class is designed to help you feel more comfortable, confident and calm when speaking to a crowd. Sure, we'll talk about body language, volume and pacing. And sure, we'll talk about how to mitigate anxiety. We'll talk about the writing itself and how to organize your thoughts in compelling and effective ways. But most of all, we will focus on authenticity, presence and relevance. Whether you want to run for public office or just hope to speak with more poise amongst your peers, this class offers opportunities to gain skills and self-assurance. To register or for questions, call Kris at 970-728-3886.

January 31

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

February 1

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

see January 25

February 1-March 8

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Turn your dreams and ideas into a one-of-a-kind book—a book you write and illustrate and design yourself! This course is for students in grades 3-6. Join artist Ann Cheeks, bookmaker Katy Baum,

and poet and storyteller Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer for six weeks of playing with words, images, pages and bindings. After this class, you can tell everyone, "I wrote a book! And it's fun!" To register or with questions, contact Jess at 970-728-3886.

February 7

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

February 8

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

see January 25

February 8

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

see February 1

February 14

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

February 15

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

see January 25

February 15

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

see February 1

February 20

Talking Gourds Poetry Club

Telluride, CO

Telluride Arts, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry and Art Goodtimes co-host this monthly reading series and open reading circle. This month's feature: Daiva Chesonis and Craig Childs. Theme: Birth For more information, call 970-729-1838

February 21

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

February 22

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

see January 25

February 22

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

see February 1

February 23-25

Crestone Poetry Festival

Crestone, CO

various locations

Join Rosemerry and a host of fabulous poets from around Colorado—including Wendy Videlock, Rachel Kellum, Art Goodtimes, Danny Rosen, Uche Ogbugi, Aaron Abeyta, Juan Morales, Peter Anderson, Barbara Ford and many more in the magical town of Crestone for a weekend of performances and workshops. Rosemerry will perform at and host the open mic on Friday at 9 p.m. at the Crestone Charter School and will host a workshop Saturday morning, *Making More of Metaphors*. For the full schedule and line up, visit poemfest.com

February 28

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

March 1

Public Speaking: How to Feel Good in Front of a Crowd

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. - noon

see January 25

March 1

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

see February 1

March 7

The Poetry of Presence

Ridgway, CO

Weehawken Arts, noon-2 p.m.

see January 3

March 8

Page Turners

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

see February 1

March 15

Heartbeat in Concert: Live as One

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 7 p.m.

The seven-woman acapella choir performs music from around the world, exploring other continents and cultures through song. Donations gratefully accepted. For more information, contact Rosemerry, wordwoman@rosemerry.com

March 18

Heartbeat in Concert: Live as One

Ridgway, CO

Sherbino Theater, 4 p.m.

see March 15

March 27

Talking Gourds Poetry Club

Telluride, CO

Telluride Arts, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry and Art Goodtimes co-host this monthly reading series and open reading circle. This month's feature: Jennifer Rane Hancock. For more information, call 970-729-1838

April 3

***Naked for Tea* Book launch!!**

Telluride, CO

Telluride Arts, 6 p.m.

Join Rosemerry as she reads from her newest collection. *Naked for Tea*, a finalist in the Able Muse Book Award, is a uniquely uplifting and inspirational collection. Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer's poems are at times humorously surreal, at times touchingly real, as they explore the ways in which our own brokenness can open us to new possibilities in a beautifully imperfect world. *Naked for Tea* proves that poems that are disarmingly witty on the surface can have surprising depths of wisdom.

April 5

Writ Large Storytelling

Carbondale, CO

The Temporary 7-8:30 p.m.

Rosemerry joins six other women (and one man)storytellers in an evening about discovering our dark—and our light. For more information, contact Alya Howe, alyahowe@me.com or call 970-309-2582. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

April 6

The Art of Being Vulnerable

Basalt, CO

Basalt Public Library, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sometimes, writing a poem is good medicine. The process can help us keep our heads and hearts where our bodies are, inviting us to return to the present moment again and again. No matter how busy you are—or not—this art of paying attention to the here and now has a wonderful way of inspiring us to live better, and to make our world better, while at the same time allowing us to see ourselves and the world as “good enough.” This is a workshop brought to you by curiosity and paradox. We’ll read, write and share poems. All levels of writing experience welcome. Find out more at www.basaltlibrary.com.

April 6

Honoring Ruth Barton
Colorado Springs
Colorado College, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry joins other students and colleagues of Ruth Barton in an evening celebration of her life.

April 24
Talking Gourds Poetry Club
Telluride, CO
Telluride Arts, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry and Art Goodtimes co-host this monthly reading series and open reading circle. This month's feature: Claire Bottle. For more information, call 970-729-1838

April 27-29, 2018
The Grand Embrace: Writing and relaxing into not knowingness

sliding fee of \$170 - \$220 for room and board and a suggested teacher donation of \$150 - \$400

La Sal, Utah

We live in a culture that wants to know—we chart and graph and test and outline. We codify and classify and name. But what do we really know? What is all this messiness and mystery that breeds underneath our longing for orderliness and certainty? What would happen if we could really rest in uncertainty? How deep might that relaxation go? How much more open might our lives be if we made friends with letting go? Join retreat leaders Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and dharma teacher Susie Harrington. We'll read poems that don't bring answers, poems that lead us deeper into paradox. We'll sit in the midst of the not-knowing, sit with our joys, our challenges, the what is here of each moment. We'll write our own explorations of what if and what else and see what even a small bit of wonder might do ... if you're willing to risk a little, meditation and writing can open doors where before you didn't even realize a door existed. Spiritual doors. Healing doors. Doors where there used to be walls. No previous writing experience required. No previous meditation experience required. This poetry and meditation weekend is for anyone who is curious about weaving spiritual awakening and the creative poetic impulse. For those who have attended before, this will be a new exploration of the same themes. For more information or to register, please visit <https://deserthharma.org/retreats/poetry.html>

May 2
Write Like Crazy!
Montrose, CO

Field House, 25 Colorado Ave., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Let's play! This is a class of prompts and writing! We'll experiment with poetry and stories. The goal? A good time with words in a playful, supportive environment. A class for rousing your muse, no matter where you are in your writing practice. For more information, contact programs@weehawkenarts.org.

May 10

Emcee Training

Telluride, CO

Telluride Community Room, 4-6 p.m.

Rosemerry guides the Telluride Mountainfilm Emcees in a hands-on training in how to be a bridge between the film and the audience.

May 18

Telluride Literary Arts Festival

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School in Telluride

Rosemerry and Art Goodtimes co-host the opening reading for this fantastic literary arts festival, featuring John Nizalowski and Esther Belin. Open reading after. Free.

May 19

Literary Burlesque

Uncorseted: It's Not What It Seams

Telluride, Colorado

Black Box Theater, The Palm, 7 p.m.

Eight whip-smart women strip away what it means to fight for liberty in all their cheeky glory. It's the 100th anniversary of Armistice. Let's celebrate the women who unbound themselves using their voices, bodies ... and bicycles. \$20. For tickets, call between the covers, 728-4504.

May 21

Naked for Tea Reading/Signing

Ridgway, CO

Cimarron Books, 6:30 p.m.

Join Rosemerry as she reads from her newest collection. *Naked for Tea*, a finalist in the Able Muse Book Award, is a uniquely uplifting and inspirational collection. Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer's poems are at times humorously surreal, at times touchingly real, as they explore the ways in which our own brokenness can open us to new possibilities in a beautifully imperfect world. *Naked for Tea* proves that poems that are disarmingly witty on the surface can have surprising depths of wisdom.

May 23

Lost in Motherland: Writing to Discover Who We Are(n't)

Telluride, CO

Wilkinson Public Library, 10-2, Telluride Room

Motherhood changes things Amidst the blessings and the challenges, we transform. Whether your child is in utero, in diapers, in junior high, or an adult long out of the home, and chances are that things have not gone as you expected. Chances are you have frustrations, joys, disappointments,

elations. This is not a class for writing about our kids, though. It's a chance to write about yourself, to explore how mothering has informed who you are. All mothers welcome—grandmothers, step-mothers, adoptive mothers, mothers-to-be. No previous writing experience necessary. For those who have taken this workshop previously, the material will be all new. Free. Please do register in advance by contacting Paula at pciberay@telluridelibrary.org

May 31-June 3

**National Federation of State Poetry Societies National Convention
Denver, CO**

Rosemerry joins many other presenters and poets in this annual convention, held for the first time in Colorado! Workshops and performances and awards, oh my. For more information, <https://www.columbinepoetscolorado.com/2018-nfspd-convention>

June 8

**Window to the World: Global Explorations in Poems
Telluride, CO**

Wilkinson Public Library, 1 p.m.

Kick off the summer with an armchair vacation—visiting the world through poems! For more information, contact Paula at pciberay@telluridelibrary.org

June 14

**Women's Words, Women's Voices: An evening of word play, ritual and mingling
Carbondale, CO**

Waldorf School

Rosemerry leads an evening of poetic exploration and creative play with guidance on how to show up with vulnerability, authenticity, curiosity and connection. For more information about wForum, contact Adelaide at aokwaters@gmail.com

June 18

**Always Becoming: A Dream and Poetry Workshop
Placerville, CO**

Monday, June 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$100

What if you could rest in the knowing that your own consciousness had the answers that you were looking for? Each night, through the power and intensity of our dreams, we are offered pieces of ourselves that we might never come to know. Dreams speak the language of the soul, a rich and deep patois, from the deepest parts of our being. A dream may speak to a personal mythos or idea we hold about who we are, how we are living or what our future might hold; or it may offer an insight into a small detail of everyday life—what we do in relationships, how we pull back or illuminate the places we are stuck. Talking about dreams – as opposed to interpreting them – opens us up to a deep discovery of our own authenticity.

In this six-hour workshop, we will explore the landscape of dreams and use the symbols, images, metaphors and feelings to leap into language, writing poems that walk the line between certainty and uncertainty, dream and reality, the irrational and the true. Through dreams and poetry, we will navigate the tides of becoming—the continual, miraculous unfolding of life. No previous experience with dream work or poetry necessary. Led by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and Corinne Platt.

To register, contact Rosemerry, 970-729-1838 or wordwoman@rosemerry.com

June 26

Art Bar: The Art of Showing Up

Ridgeway, CO

Sherbino Theater, 6 p.m.

with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

“Sometimes ... a poem is good medicine ... The process can help us keep our heads and hearts where our bodies are,” say Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby Wilson, editors of *Poetry of Presence*. Writing and reading poems invites us to return to the present moment again and again. No matter how busy you are—or not—this art of paying attention to the here and now has a wonderful way of inspiring us to live better, and to make our world better, while at the same time allowing us to see ourselves and the world as “good enough.” This is a workshop brought to you by curiosity and paradox. We’ll read, write and share poems. All levels of writing expertise welcome. For more information, contact Trisha at 970-318-0150 or programs@weehawkenarts.org. <https://www.weehawkenarts.org/all-classes/343-artbar-d-the-art-of-showing-up-with-rosemerry-wahtola-trommer>

July 7

First Saturday Poetry

Denver, CO

Bookbar, 4:30 p.m. mingling, 5:30 p.m. reading

Rosemerry and Erika Moss Gordon perform a poetry duet at one of the country’s most innovative and successful bookstores. For more information, contact Crystal at crystal@bookbardenver.com. <https://www.bookbardenver.com/event/first-saturday-poetry-series-12>

July 25 & 26

Writing into the Unknown

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 3-6 p.m.

“Write what you know,” says the adage, but what happens when we write to unknow? What happens when we let our curiosity guide our writing? In this workshop, we will read poems and

stories that launch us into wonder, writing that opens doors instead of clicking them closed, then we'll leap into writing of our own, writing that is more interested in exploration than answers, writing inspired by authenticity. Let's find out how a bit of what if might transform what happens when you sit down to the page. For more information, contact 970-728-3886.

<http://www.ahhaa.org/calendarize/writing-unknown-rosemerry-wahtola-trommer/>

July 28 & 29

The Art of Showing Up: with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer & Jill Davey

Caledon, Ontario

Alton Mill Arts Centre, 9:40 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“Sometimes ... a poem is good medicine ... The process can help us keep our heads and hearts where our bodies are,” say Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby Wilson, editors of *Poetry of Presence*. Writing and reading poems invites us to return to the present moment again and again. No matter how busy we are—or not—this art of paying attention to the here and now has a wonderful way of inspiring us to live better, and to make our world better, while at the same time allowing us to see ourselves and the world as “good enough.” To explore the art of showing up, we'll practice meditation with Jill Davey. We'll practice ekhprasis, the art of writing poems about works of art. And we'll practice writing poems based on our observations of the natural world.

This is a workshop brought to you by curiosity and paradox. We'll read, write and share poems, and find quiet and voice in ourselves. All levels of writing and meditation expertise welcome. Bring a journal with you! \$325 + hst. To register: <https://waxworksenaustics.com/events/the-art-of-showing-up-july-28-29/> or call 519-323-3437

August 1

Write Like Crazy!

Montrose, CO

Field House, 25 Colorado Ave, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Let's play! This is a class of prompts and writing! We'll experiment with poetry and stories. The goal? A good time with words in a playful, supportive environment. A class for rousing your muse, no matter where you are in your writing practice. For more information, contact programs@weehawkenarts.org.

August 10-13

Taking Flight: A Poetry and Painting Retreat for Women

Telluride, CO

Ah Haa School, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily

We spend so much energy holding things together, keeping it all in. Let your pen and your paintbrush be the keys to fling open the cage doors. With curiosity as our guide and paradox as our playground, we'll launch and laugh ourselves into four days of creative freedom. This is a time to generate new work, to be seduced by your wilder self, to explore in an uncensored way the powerful, vulnerable, radiant, humble, soaring woman that is you. All levels of experience and inexperience welcome. Led by Rosemerry and Brucie Holler. <http://www.ahhaa.org/calendarize/taking-flight-poetry-painting-retreat-women-brucie-holler-rosemerry-wahtola-trommer/>

September 21-23, 2018

The Grand Embrace: Writing and relaxing into not knowingness

sliding fee of \$170 - \$220 for room and board and a suggested teacher donation of \$150 - \$400

La Sal, Utah

We live in a culture that wants to know—we chart and graph and test and outline. We codify and classify and name. But what do we really know? What is all this messiness and mystery that breeds underneath our longing for orderliness and certainty? What would happen if we could really rest in uncertainty? How deep might that relaxation go? How much more open might our lives be if we made friends with letting go? Join retreat leaders Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and dharma teacher Susie Harrington. We'll read poems that don't bring answers, poems that lead us deeper into paradox. We'll sit in the midst of the not-knowing, sit with our joys, our challenges, the what is here of each moment. We'll write our own explorations of what if and what else and see what even a small bit of wonder might do ... if you're willing to risk a little, meditation and writing can open doors where before you didn't even realize a door existed. Spiritual doors. Healing doors. Doors where there used to be walls. No previous writing experience required. No previous meditation experience required. This poetry and meditation weekend is for anyone who is curious about weaving spiritual awakening and the creative poetic impulse. For those who have attended before, this will be a new exploration of the same themes. For more information or to register, please visit <https://deserthharma.org/retreats/poetry.html>

September 23

SpiritFest, Naked for Tea: The Art of Vulnerability

Ridgway, Colorado

Sherbino Theatre, 6 p.m.

Rosemerry will be the closing presenter for this annual event which invites awareness of the Universal Spirit within, honoring and increasing understanding of the many paths, faiths, traditions, cultures, philosophies and wisdom leading to the One Source. Also on the program: Richard Rohr, John & Kate Kissingford, Beth Quist and more.

This closing session will be part performance, part exploration of how we all might loosen our masks, take off our certainties, slip out of our judgments and step into the world as it is—messy and miraculous. And why? The more vulnerable we are, the more layers we take off, the more we are able to experience oneness. The more authentic we are, the more the whole world becomes mirror. Poet Teddy Macker says of Trommer's newest collection, *Naked for Tea*, "Heart-thawingly honest and compassionate down to the fingertips. A book of kindness and bewilderment and delight from one of our best poets." And as spiritual teacher Wayne Muller writes in the foreword, "The elegance of her simplicity will blind you to her mastery. Then, she will let you fall, head over heels, in Love. With everything. So. You have been warned."

For more information, or to register, visit <https://www.ridgwayspiritfest.com/>

October 4

Poetry of Presence

Telluride, CO

Wilkinson Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

For four weeks, we'll immerse ourselves in mindfulness poems from the recently published collection *Poetry of Presence* (Grayson Books, 2017). Poets in the collection include Mary Oliver, Naomi Shihab Nye, Wendell Berry, Li-Young Lee, Raymond Carver, Ellen Bass, Lucille Clifton, Octavio Paz, Nikki Giovanni, Kahlil Gibran, Rumi, Billy Collins, Charles Bukowski, Marge Piercy, and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. As the editors say, these are poems that "inspire us to live better, and to make our world better; at the same time, they grant us a taste of being good enough, just as we are, in this world, just as it is." Each week, we'll read and discuss these writings that, according to Fr. Richard Rohr, invite us to live "undefended," poems that lead us "into a deeper communion with the world." For more information, contact Elissa at edickson@telluridelibrary.org.

October 11

Poetry of Presence

Telluride, CO

Wilkinson Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

see October 4

October 17

Rabbit Holes & The Art of Conversation

Grand Junction, CO

KAFM Radio Room, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join Rosemerry and dancer Alya Howe for **The Art of Uncertainty: Thoughts on Creating in the Muse's Favorite Playground**. "One doesn't arrive — in words or in art — by necessarily knowing where one is going," says artist Ann Hamilton. "In every work of art something appears that does not previously exist, and so, by default, you work from what you know to what you don't know." When setting out on creative ventures—whether you're a poet, dancer, gardener or mechanic—it helps to be open to all possible routes to a destination you do not yet know. And yet there is rigor and research and work to prepare for all this not knowing. How do we allow our work to be a continuous adventure? How do we maintain curiosity and inquisitiveness, even in settings that seem highly cramped? How do we develop trust in process? As Emily Dickinson says, "I dwell in possibility." How might we do that, too? This will be a conversation/performance between a poet Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and dancer Alya Howe, drawing on their own experiences of the generative power of "I don't know" and recounting the stories and questions of other artists. For more information, contact Wendy at coloradawendy@gmail.com.

October 18

Poetry of Presence

Telluride, CO

Wilkinson Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

see October 4

October 25

Poetry of Presence

Telluride, CO

Wilkinson Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

see October 4

November 1-3

Wellspring of Imagination

Logan, OH

various locations

Once again Rosemerry joins poets Alison Luterman and Jack Ridl and storyteller Alan Cohen in three days of mentoring high school students. An incredible program engaging with the next generation of poets. For more information, contact Alan Cohen, owl111@frontier.com.

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