



## Instructors

Meet the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild instructors who are eager to work with you on your writing journey.

### **Sarah Barnett**

Before retiring to Rehoboth Beach and discovering the joys of writing creatively, Sarah Barnett had careers as teacher, librarian, and lawyer. Attending the Guild's weekly FreeWrites, she found herself writing fragments of memoir, humorous essays, and short fiction. To her surprise, some of these pieces evolved into prize-winning stories and in 2020 she received a Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship in nonfiction. She is vice president of RBWG and enjoys leading FreeWrites, teaching writing classes, and composing essays and stories while walking her dog on the beach. Her work has appeared in *Hippocampus*, *Brevity Blog*, *Delmarva Review*, *Delaware Beach Life*, and other publications.

### **Judy Catterton**

Judy Catterton has been teaching memoir and essay writing for the Guild since 2015. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Individual Artist Fellowship for nonfiction writing awarded by the Delaware Division of the Arts. Her essays have appeared in literary journals, including *Noise* (Grand Prize), *Chatter House Press* (Third Prize), *Alligator / Juniper* (Contest Finalist), *Wising Up Anthology*, *The Divine Feminine*, *The Ravens' Perch*, and the textbook, *Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan*. Her poetry has appeared in *Delaware Beach Life*, *Third Wednesday*, *She Writes*, *Rat's Ass Review*, and *Seaside Scribes*.

### **Ellen Collins**

Ellen Collins is a writer and artist who divides her time between Vienna, VA, and Bethany Beach. She has conducted workshops for adults and children around the country in poetry and memoir and has published poetry and fiction in journals and anthologies. Her first book of poetry, *The Memory Thief*, was published in 2015,

## Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild Instructors

followed by *Invitations: Poems of Yoga and Meditation*. She is currently in the process of completing her first novel.

### **Gail Braune Comorat**

Gail Braune Comorat is a founding member of Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild, author of *Phases of the Moon* (Finishing Line Press), and a collaborating poet for *Walking the Sunken Boards* (Pond Road Press). She serves as an editor for *Quartet*, an online poetry journal for women 50 and over. Her work has appeared in *Gargoyle*, *Grist*, *Mudfish*, *Philadelphia Stories*, and *The Widows' Handbook*. She's a long-time member of several writing groups in Lewes, Delaware.

### **Maribeth Fischer**

Maribeth Fischer, in addition to founding and serving as executive director of “The Guild,” as many now call it, is the author of two novels, *The Language of Goodbye* (Dutton 2001), and *The Life You Longed For* (Simon & Schuster, 2007), which was published in five countries. Since 2009, Fischer has received three Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowships for fiction and nonfiction. She has published essays in such journals as *The Iowa Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Creative Nonfiction* and has received two Pushcart Prizes for her essays.

### **Crystal Heidel**

Crystal Heidel is a graphic designer who has designed nearly 100 book covers, some of which received state and national awards. She is also a writer, the author of the award-winning murder mystery, *Still Life in Blood*, which won First Place in both the Delaware Press Association's Communications Contest and the National Federation of Press Women's Communication Contest in 2014. This combined passion for unique book design and compelling writing led Crystal to found Byzantium Sky Press, an indie publishing company dedicated to sharing the voices of empowering women writers who are not afraid to be who they are and change lives with their words. Byzantium Sky Press has won multiple awards in the Delaware Press Association's Communications Contest for cover design.

### **Ilona Holland**

After 14 years of commuting to Cambridge, MA from DE, Ilona Holland retired from her position on the faculty at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her decision was stirred by a keen desire to devote more time and attention to writing. Since retiring, she has published two award-winning historical fiction picture books, *The Lost Locket of Lewes* and *The Great Explosion: A Powder Mill Chronicle*. She was also honored to have her debut children's book, *Buddy Bison's Yellowstone Adventure*,

## Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild Instructors

included in United Through Reading, a program serving over 100,000 families in which deployed military parents read to their children over distance.

### **Ethan Joella**

Ethan Joella is president of RBWG and teaches English and psychology at the University of Delaware where he specializes in online teaching and community writing workshops. His work has appeared in *River Teeth*, *The Cimarron Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Delaware Beach Life*, and *Third Wednesday*. He has published two chapbooks of poetry, and his novel, *A Little Hope*, will be published in Fall 2021 by Scribner (Simon & Schuster). He lives in Rehoboth Beach.

### **Mariah Burton Nelson**

A lifelong writer, Mariah Burton Nelson recently started studying graphic storytelling at the Sequential Artists' Workshop and is eager to share what she's learning with other writers who are brave enough to try something new in a very low-risk setting. So far, she has published one graphic story (with *Passager Journal*), was a featured artist at RBWG's Art in the A.M. program in 2019, and earned her World Art History certificate from Smithsonian Associates in 2020. Before studying art, she wrote seven books, most notably *The Stronger Women Get*, *The More Men Love Football* (Harcourt Brace). She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, and other publications, anthologies, and literary journals. She lives in Arlington, VA, and Rehoboth Beach, DE, and is at work on a graphic memoir.

### **Elise Seyfried**

Elise Seyfried is the author of four books of humorous essays, and many freelance essays for publications including *The Independent*, *Purple Clover*, *HuffPost*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Modern Loss*, *Living Lutheran*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and *Delaware Beach Life*. Her weekly blog "Working Title" appears in the Cape Gazette digital edition.

## Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild Instructors

### **Rae Tyson**

Rae Tyson of Georgetown has been a professional writer for over 40 years with work appearing in newspapers, magazines, and books. One of his short stories was published locally in 2018 by Cat & Mouse Press. Since 2014, Tyson has been teaching fiction and non-fiction writing at the University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Collaborating with acclaimed writer Mary Jumbelic, Tyson also is teaching a memoir writing class at the Downtown Writers Center in Syracuse, NY.