



# Writers on Fire

Writing Retreat at the Ocean House, Hawaii

## **Writing Retreat at Chateau St. Philippe – Workshop Schedule**

Following please find a sample workshop schedule from the recent Writers On Fire in Hawaii retreat. Workshop schedules are subject to change, and will be customized to suit the 7 workshop participants for the upcoming January 15th -January 21th retreat.

Day 1: Morning arrival. Unpack, settle in. Afternoon trip to the Polynesian Cultural Center -- immersion in local history and vibe. Festive luau dinner at PCC to welcome all retreaters. Morning session: 9am-12pm. The Art of Memoir. Stirring up memory. Awakenning the primal sense of smell. Draw psychogeographic maps. Discuss scene-writing and shaping experience versus therapy. Share personal histories; draw inspiration from selected readings of other memoirists, plus selected readings from writers who inspire each participant. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. Memoir Intensive. Explore Hawai'i-set excerpts from Joelle Fraser's searing memoir *The Territory Of Men*. Discuss structure, pattern, shape and voice --the tug of nostalgia, recreating the Vanished. Exercises galore. 9pm: Screening of PBS' "The Last Queen of Hawaii."

Day 2: Morning session: 9am-12pm. *The Necessary Lie: Turning Life Into Fiction*. Awakenning the sense of touch. Explore Lois-Ann Yamanaka's prize-winning book *Saturday Night* at the Pahala Theater – a series of short poetic novellas written in pidgin. Claiming your own voice, forging your own language. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. More Fiction. Literary v. genre writing. From short fiction to the novel: Discuss Lois-Ann Yamanaka's critically acclaimed first novel, *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* which blends pidgin and formal English. Experiment with voice, dialect, dialogue.

Day 3: Morning session: 9am-12pm. *Tour-de-force Travel Writing & The Power of the Personal Essay*. Awakenning the sense of taste. Using setting as inspiration. *How To Tie A Pareo*. Playing with kitsch, the real and the sur-real. Tone, attitude, and all-important point of view. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. *Dramarama: Cooking Up The One-Act Play* or more Travel Writing. Continue with on-the-spot writing exercises. Performance games. Using travel materials. 9pm: Screening of "Riding Giants," the awesome big wave surf doc featuring local hero Laird Hamilton. Briefly traces history of surfing, which began in Hawai'i. Surf literature, from Kem Nunn (*Tapping the Source* and *Dogs of Winter*) to Joy Nicholson (*Tribes of Palos Verdes*.)

Day 4: Morning session: 9-12pm. Sudden Fiction: The Flash Art of the Short-Short. Tapping into the sense of hearing. Crafting self-contained short writings. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. More short fiction. Preparing for final reading.

Day 5: Morning session: 9-12pm. Sex and Violence: How To Write Without Censure. Awakenning the sense of vision. Erotica writing exercise. Tapping your inner island libertine. Afternoon session. 1-3pm: Site-Specific Writing. In this session, we move outdoors to write from a powerful sense of place and awareness of nature. The myth of the castaway, and the lure of the island. Final event: 8pm. Public Reading. Participants read works created during retreat, followed by celebratory dinner. Don't forget to bring clothes to dress festive!

Day 6: Departure. Last opportunity for lounging in the Sunset Villa. Farewell breakfast and beach ritual. Inspiration and Personal Coaching Sessions In both retreats, participants will be encouraged to use their vivid memories, as well as experiences with the retreat environment, each other, food, dreams and observations in their writing exercises and assignments. Inspiration may also come from writing journals and dream logs. I will offer two personal coaching sessions with each participant, to work out a plan for your future writing and other creative endeavors and to clarify and expand your individual goals as a writer. The first one-on-one session will be at the beginning of the conference, and the second toward the end. Each evening we will organize wine and cheese gatherings in the living room or on the deck as breaks from writing and opportunities to mingle. I also offer private personal coaching sessions separately from the retreats. If you are interested, please contact me directly for more details.

WHEN YOU LEAVE, YOU'LL TAKE: Concrete critiquing of your writing, to whatever degree you desire; a coaching plan for how to work regular writing into your life and how to use writing to expand your creative energy and the power of your imagination in all areas; and the experience of a unique, breakthrough creative journey.

PREPARATION: All you will need for each meeting is a pen and a notebook. There will be writing assignments out of class as well. The conference will not have computers, so you may wish to bring your laptops if you work on computer. A printer will be available on the premises for out-of-class assignments. DSL also available at the Sunset Villa for email and online access. No advance submission of work is required.

### **Cost & What's Included**

The all-inclusive price (except for airfare) is \$2,000. Airfare, which is approximately \$500 roundtrip from LAX to Honolulu, is not included. However, van transport from the airport to the house is provided. Two healthy meals a day (breakfast and lunch) are also included, as well as the 6-night, 5-day stay.

Please make checks out to: Writers On Fire/120 N. Topanga Cyn. Blvd., Suite 105/PMB 173/Topanga, CA 90290. If you want to pay by PayPal, please include an additional \$10 servicing fee, and use my [katamon@verizon.net](mailto:katamon@verizon.net) e-mail for making payment.

There will also be more Writers On Fire workshops and retreats upcoming, both here and abroad. If you'd like to be on the mailing list for coaching and workshop retreats, let me know.

I look forward to working with you!

Best,

*Rachel*



## RACHEL RESNICK, WRITING COACH AND RETREAT LEADER

**Rachel Resnick is the author of *Love Junkie***, a bestselling and critically acclaimed memoir, and *Go West Young F\*cked-Up Chick*, a bestselling novel. Her essays, articles and fiction have appeared in nearly a dozen anthologies, most recently *What Was I Thinking? 58 Bad Boyfriend Stories*, and many more magazines, newspapers and literary journals. She has taught in major writing programs, among them UCLA Extension Writers Program, USC Professional Writing Program, Loyola Marymount, mediabistro.com, Cal Arts, LACC, Chapman, Whittier, Emerson, Antioch, UC Riverside/Palm Desert, and she runs her own Writers On Fire writing workshops in Hawaii, France and Los Angeles.

Please refer to [www.rachelresnick.com](http://www.rachelresnick.com) for more links, reviews and general info on the writing coach, workshop and retreat leader. Or feel free to e-mail with any questions.

### A few Coaching and Retreat Testimonials

"I've learned so much from you about how to write—real. I now get that cleverness is not what people want. They want heart. And jokes cover up the pain. I'm learning in reverse to remove the "jokes" as if taking the lid off a boiling pot. Your teaching has really made a difference, not only in my writing, but in my life. [see, no jokes.]"

~ Judy Carter, comedian, magician, sought-after public speaker, and author of perennial bestseller *The Comedy Bible*

"I had a breakthrough and came out knowing more about my writing voice, how different I am from others, and not to be afraid of that, but to really go deep and explore it."

~ Holly Hughes, new mother and writer

"Rachel takes us to her perch, spreads her wings (and her wing span is might), and takes us safely over the mountain."

~ Coleman Hough, screenwriter

"Rachel Resnick's Writers On Fire in France retreat proved to be an intense and invigorating experience. I pushed myself to write beyond my usual boundaries and experienced seismic shifts in my writing after attending this workshop. Rachel has the rare ability to inspire and guide a writer on his or her own individual journey."

~ Monica Carter, bookstore bandleader and writer

"I didn't know I needed a writing coach until I started working with Rachel. Within a week she had assessed my work from the dozen clips I gave her, helped me define my "voice" and map out a book proposal -- something I had been attempting to do on my own for the past two years! I thoroughly enjoyed the process and feel that it has been terrific investment of both time and money."

~ Linda Renaud, print journalist and writer of creative non-fiction

"Sometimes it takes a few secrets, a few laughs and Rachel Resnick to go a little deeper and simply write. Rachel's warmth and respect for the writing process just lets the work

reveal in ever more intimate layers. Somehow in luxury of sharing writing, doubts slip away..."

~ Madeleine Gallay, fashion maven and writer

"Whatever you did blew me out of my rut and into territories I have yet to explore and digest. The best single writing experience of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

~ Russell Avery, world traveler, philanthropist and writer

"The writing exercises, where everyone had to read out loud what they had written, trained the brain muscle that had been dormant. More than what I had expected. I wanted to get inspired. I got very inspired plus energized plus left with a smile."

~ Gregor von Bismarck, filmmaker, father and bon vivant

"I loved that the workshop was generative, since it kept it fresh and alive for me -- one who can get lost in moving a word around for a couple of hours. The retreat as a whole was beyond my expectations in all ways. The quality and quantity of work, one-on-one's with Rachel, the writing exercises, the people, setting...wow, wow, wow."

~ Marcia King, personal coach and motivational speaker

**Please note: Workshops and retreats are non-refundable. Extra coaching sessions are of course available, and billed at the rate of \$100/hour per quarter hour segments. In-person meetings are for 90 minutes or more.**