

Special Post-Certificate Training: Writing with Trauma

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Writing with Trauma

AWA Post-Certificate Training with Jen Cross

“ I didn't trust it for a moment,
but I drank it anyway,
the wine of my own poetry.

It gave me the daring to take hold
of the darkness and tear it down
and cut it into little pieces.

—Lalla (Kashmiri poet who lived in the early 1300s)

We who are facilitators of AWA writing groups know that trauma (our own and/or other's) is in the room with us any time we gather writers together. We know that writing freely within the AWA framework can be a way to work with and restore difficult material, creating art out of some of the most painful experiences of our lives; we also know how painful and even frightening it can be when a writer shares a story of grief, fear, and/or violence.

In this three-hour workshop, AWA affiliate Jen Cross invites you into a conversation about what a trauma-aware AWA facilitation practice might look like. Bring your questions, fears, suggestions, and resources. We will write together; share our concerns; consider the strengths, resilience, and wisdom of trauma survivors in your writing groups; discuss ways to increase trauma awareness and mitigate against inadvertent retraumatization.

Jen Cross has led writing groups with trauma survivors since 2002. She is the author of *Writing Ourselves Whole: Using the Power of Your Own Creativity to Recover and Heal from Sexual Trauma* (Mango, 2017); her fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in over 50 anthologies and periodicals, including *Nobody Passes*, *The Healing Art of Writing 2010*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *Visible: A Femmethology (Vol. 1)*, and *Best Sex Writing 2008*. Jen holds an MFA in Creative Writing and MA in Transformative Language Arts from Goddard College.

All AWA-certified workshop leaders are welcome to join us for this special online Post-Certificate Training!

Venue Online via Zoom

Starts Sat Oct 8 2022, 1:00pm EDT

Ends Sat Oct 8 2022, 4:00pm EDT