

Welcome Introduction

Multicultural Women Writers Salon



OVERVIEW

Welcome to the New Cohort

April – September

Cultural Awareness, Definition, Deliberation & Reflection

Welcome. You are joining something that has been building for a long time.

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon began from a simple conviction: women of color carry stories that the world needs, and those stories deserve to be told well, published professionally, and placed in the permanent record. Not summarized. Not filtered through someone else's voice. Told in yours, on your terms, with your name on the cover.

This is your first day of that work. Eight months from now, you will be a published author.

***"Your story deserves to be told.
We help you tell it professionally."***

What This Program Produces

Before we talk about what you will do this year, I want to show you what last year's cohort built. Please take a few minutes with the 2025 journal — Communications Today: Power of Voice in Storytelling — if you have not already read it.

Five women brought five completely different stories into this room. What they produced by September was extraordinary:

Itoman, Okinawa by Keiko-san Nakamura: A post-war adoption story across two families, two countries, and a little pink dress still kept today.

The Making of an Activist by Lena Galloway Reddick: A seven-generation legal history tracing a landmark civil rights case to a Salem parlor in 1836.

The Journey of Identity by Jessica Melbourne: A Vietnamese American story opens with jade bangles, a bathroom counter & ends in the temples of Hội An.

Cabo Verde Dynasty by Naia Barros: A colonial independence story by one who sat in living rooms with future first president of Cabo Verde at age nine.

Indigenusness by Paula Robinson Deare: Ancestral identity, erasure, and a photo of a 3,000-year-old Olmec carving with the author's exact features.

These stories are now part of the national historic archive in the Library of Congress. They will belong to the national public record of the history of the United States of America.

That is what you are building toward.

What to Expect This Year

The salon runs in three phases across six months. Here is what each one gives you:

April – August: Writing & Craft: You will find your story, understand our audiences, and learn to transform a memory into a publishable narrative. We draw techniques from journalists, memoirists, and cultural storytellers. Every session builds on the last.

September: Journal Production: Your finished story enters professional production. You will see your name, photographs, and words in a full-color journal designed to last. We host a graduation book signing with community, a celebration you will have earned.

November & December, Independent Readings & Outreach with the publication: As trainers and publishers, we will share your story at community readings and cultural events. You are welcome to attend\ speak as a recognized, published author.

The work is rigorous. The community is supportive. The result is permanent.

What You Bring

You do not need prior writing experience. You do not need a polished story. You do not need to know how it ends. What we need from you is a commitment to work on your story.

You need a story worth writing about, something from your life, your family, your culture, your history that has not yet been put on paper. You need commitment to the work of telling it well. And you need honesty, because the stories that stay with readers are the ones that do not flinch.

The women in the 2025 journal wrote about war and adoption, about legal battles their ancestors fought two centuries ago, about the confusion and the beauty of growing up between two cultures, about being in a room with a future head of state at age nine. None of them knew, when they started, exactly what their story would become. That is what this salon is for.

Smart Goals: What do you expect to get from this experience?

✓ Website corrected: www.eworkstyle.org Recommended Software: Google Docs, Microsoft Office, Open Office, ChatGPT, Wikipedia

Specific Goals <i>What exactly do I want to accomplish through this experience?</i>	
Measurable Outcomes <i>How will I track my progress?</i>	
Attainable Proof <i>Is this realistic for me? What do I need to make my goals possible?</i>	
Why Relevant to You? <i>Why is this program important to me? What do I hope to get out of it?</i>	

COURSE OUTLINE

Multicultural Women Writers Salon — April through September

✓ **UPDATED:** Course outline updated: placeholder dates replaced with 2026 schedule. All modules reflect six-month arc, April – September.

- We host an open house graduation and book signing to celebrate your published work and recognize you as an author.
- After graduation, your story continues to be read at community and cultural events.
- Your finished journal is placed in the national Library of Congress archive — a permanent part of the historic record.

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon runs on a six-month cycle, April through September. Every lesson builds on the last, from your first story idea in the spring to a professionally published journal and public reading in the autumn. You do not need prior writing experience to begin. You need a story worth telling, and commitment to the work of telling it well.

Participants receive professional mentorship from an instructor with decades of storytelling experience, community support from a cohort of multicultural women writers, research assistance, coaching through writing and revision, and a professionally published full-color journal to share with family, friends, and community as a legacy document.

#	Schedule of Activities	Module 1 Apr–May	Module 2 Jun–Jul	Module 3 Aug–Sep	Module 4 Oct–Nov	Module 5 Nov–Dec
ALTERNATE LOCATIONS		Creating	Writing / Editing	Editing	Final Edits	Publication & Book Readings
Program Development & Recruitment						
MODULE 1 FOUNDATIONS: find your story, understand your audience & learn the structure that makes narratives work.						
1	Online meetings & what to expect	✓	✓			
2	Brainstorming a story & its purpose	✓	✓			
3	Planning a story via storyboarding	✓	✓			
4	Your audience & their need		✓			
MODULE 2 CRAFT: build characters, render settings, and master the scene structure that brings a story to life.						
5	Does your story serve audience?		✓			

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6	Storytelling: intro, middle, close		✓	✓		
7	Facts from family lore, genealogy		✓	✓		
8	Giving main character presence		✓	✓		
MODULE 3 REVISION: refine every sentence until the story on the page matches the story you are carrying.						
9	People & stories within a story			✓		
10	Giving supporting characters voice			✓		
11	Characters that leave / stay through			✓		
12	Photos, art — overview of place			✓		
13	Scenery / set foreground & background			✓		
14	3-Point scene: open, middle, close			✓		
15	Describing the scenery, each part			✓		
16	Segues, prequels, sequences, ends			✓		
17	Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 — all above			✓		
18	How does your main character win?			✓		
19	What supporting characters win?			✓		
MODULE 4 PUBLICATION: your story becomes a professionally printed and archived journal.						
20	Edit sequences & paragraphs			✓		
21	Edit sentences & punctuation			✓		
22	Edit final publication			✓	✓	
MODULE 5 READINGS & OUTREACH: present your work publicly and launch it into your community as a published author.						
23	Publish journals				✓	
24	Public speaking & storytelling					✓
25	Presenting your story					✓

Monday – Friday Independent Study with Support as Needed

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon is customized for instruction in writing and media production. Each participant will work independently during the week with support as needed to create stories that add to the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal.

Monday — Manuscript Innovation

Develop new ideas using a brainstorming session. Try solutions to issues and ideas from last Saturday's class. Think about what's needed under your chosen topics from Bio, Experience, Strategy and Planning a Story. No heavy lifting — jot down ideas, take random notes, draft a few sentences, think about your reasons for writing the story. What key point do you want to get across?

Tuesday — Tech & Software

Explore your computer and web-search services. What can help you enhance the background information for your story? Try free Google web applications like OpenOffice, Google Docs, and ChatGPT. Ask your friends what they would like to know about you and use their responses in your story. Take a free YouTube writing workshop.

Wednesday — World-Wide Inspiration

Introduce yourself to the world via travel and cultural sites online. Think of it as an opportunity to view others' successes, explore a country where you can take pride in community culture, or define a role model. View online lectures, documentary films, and cultural food experiences that allow you to venture outside of — or deeper into — your own experiences and community.

Thursday — Preliminary Product

Merge brainstorming ideas with notes created from the above experiences toward creating a page or chapter in your story or bio. Flesh out family stories for dates, segues, and accuracy. Think through other messages you want to get across — allow yourself random thoughts initially, then sleep on it and come up with sentences, paragraphs, and pages.

Friday — Final Production

Create a summary page based on the work you've been putting in throughout the week. Draw from old written material like resumes, bios, and similar stories. Prepare to showcase materials demonstrative of your week of independent study, to allow the group to brainstorm with you on Saturday.

Why This Matters Now

We live in a time, as the 2025 journal preface names directly, of **reactive erasure** — the systematic removal of multicultural stories from archives, curricula, and public memory. The publishing industry has long made it difficult for women of color to see their work in print. The media has gate-kept their narratives for generations.

This salon exists to change that, one story at a time. Every journal we produce is a counter-narrative. Every author who publishes becomes part of the record that erasure cannot reach.

Women are the teachers of their cultures. When their stories disappear, that teaching disappears with them. You are here because your story should not disappear.

"We document to protect our unadulterated experiences for the world's historic records."

About Your Instructor

Paula Robinson Deare is a three-time MIT alumna, media literacy strategist, and author of *Power of Voice: Honoring Yourself in Times of Erasure*, a memoir and framework for reclaiming narrative authority, coming soon from Eworkstyle Institute.

For three decades she has taught storytelling: first to nonprofit leaders and college students in Boston, now to women of color in on the South Coast and online. She has worked with Vietnamese, African American, Japanese American, Cape Verdean, Latino, and other multicultural communities carrying stories about cultural identity, family heritage, and lived experience. She founded the Multicultural Women Writers Salon in 2019.

She teaches from the conviction, earned across forty years of evidence across broadcast media, that the person who controls the story controls what the world believes is possible.

Your story is waiting.

Let us help you tell it.

www.eworkstyle.org

Eworkstyle Institute | Founded 1995 | New Bedford, MA