



COURSE REPORT

Multicultural Women Writers Salon 2025
Funded by New Bedford Creative Art is Everywhere

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ARTIST STATEMENT

OVERVIEW

During this era of open public conversations, I propose using our “Power of Voice” to inform and focus dialogue to create a series of charrettes in New Bedford, because of the city’s unique history of giving hope, freedom and cultural acceptance to scores of people regardless of race, color, gender, age or creed. Toward that end, I’m establishing an intercultural writing group, thanks to an Art is Everywhere grant from New Bedford Creative. The idea is to teach multicultural women how and why they can and should include themselves in written history. At its best, writing is a solitary activity where one tends to postpone their practice, lose direction with their subject or not know how they should create their finished product. This project was proposed as the Manifest Voice Intercultural Writing Club. French history inspired me to rename it the Multicultural Women Writers Salon to simplify a community awareness campaign. “A salon is a gathering of women held by a hostess. The salons of early modern France were polite social and intellectual gatherings that played an integral role in the cultural development of the country. In contrast with other early modern institutions, women played an important and visible role within salons, which became a center of intellectual conversation, as well as a debate stage for social issues,” - Wikipedia.

My goal is to help writers find their voice and solve ‘writers-block’ issues by providing a social environment with weekly lessons and feedback. We come together as women to articulate ideas with those of other cultures and in doing so, find we have similar ancestral experiences and preservation interests. We provide a safe space for cultural expression without judgment. Multicultural women writers often face pressure not only to accurately represent their families while portraying complex social issues from scrutiny to stereotyping; both within their culture and those unfamiliar with the culture. Multicultural women writers also have a more difficult time in publishing their work because cultural competency is not a requirement for industry gatekeepers. That includes prospective outlets for finding audiences interested in the work across cultures. We emphasized the term ‘intercultural’ as part of the writing group title to define the requisite description of diversity and equity expected and to be expected for those joining the group. We wanted an open-door policy when discussing culture among the people in the group. Our emphasis is on communicating a desire for writers to empathize and interact with each other, rather than to merely tolerate or work\live alongside each other. We are an example of what happens when women communicate interculturally in society. We share and learn from each other as ambassadors and teachers of our cultures, who ensure our stories are written to inform local to global human world history. Our schedule provided time for sharing, bonding and discussion, followed by a two-hour workshop combining lessons and reviewing writing samples. We began with 20 weeks of story development lessons\practices, and 5 weeks of journal anthology production and publication. Writers taking part also helped with all phases of journal product development and editing.

ARTIST STATEMENT

OUTREACH

In order to meet the goal of providing multi-ethnic women interested in writing a place to come together, I sought the support of Fort Rodman Marine Educational Association managers of the Low Tide Yacht Club in New Bedford's Fort Taber National Park. I have had the support of the Yacht Club in the past. I served on the New Bedford Parks Board, which referred me to the Yacht club where I held communications literacy classes from 2019 through 2022. ACCESS (Another Course to College Educational Service Solutions) was a 20-hour per 5-day week program I created, totaling 40 weeks over ten-months each year. The ACCESS series comprised 200 classes per year over four years, totaling 800 classes. Through the ACCESS program, I trained out-of-school youth to become leading scholars while developing a passion to grow into change agents with a commitment to leadership and human service. Those four years were individual contracts underwritten by New Bedford MassHire as part of the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Opportunity Act grant for Out of School Youth. I started developing projects like these as an MIT Urban Studies and Planning Fellow back in 1991. The Low Tide Yacht Club was crucial in offering a safe, serene and healing space for women making themselves vulnerable by sharing their personal stories to feel pampered.

I targeted BIPOC women of all ages and abilities specifically for this Multicultural Women Writers Salon as they have the least access to the publishing market. In 2024, low-literacy rates for adults in the United States were about 21% of the population, and one third of those were women. The National Institutes of Health says that a mother's reading skills are the biggest factor in a child's future academic achievement. "Writing and literacy are two subjects that are deeply intertwined; so much so that success at one depends entirely on the success of the other," The Literacy Project Foundation reported. The American market is the largest commercial and competitive book market in the world, and the state of diversity is considered rather homogeneous. The largest multicultural children's book publisher in the United States is based in New York City, Lee & Low Books (LLB). LLB began producing a new "Diversity Baseline Survey" report every four years because they saw a real and deep-seated need for diversity in the publishing industry. The findings of Lee & Low's study surprisingly revealed that over 70% of American writers are white women. However, their overall findings were: 8.4% of writers are biracial/multiracial; 7.8% of writers are Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/South Asian/Southeast Indian; 5.3% of writers are Black/African American/Afro Caribbean; 4.6% of writers are Hispanic/Latino/Mexican and 1% of writers are American Indian/Alaskan Native/First Nation/Native American (Diversity Chart attached). The World Literacy Foundation states, "Approximately 496 million adult women worldwide cannot read and write (Readingpartners.org)—his is 2/3 of the illiterate population around the world. The long-term impact is staggering - from reducing infant mortality, increasing women's agency, leadership skills, and employment; literate women contribute to their countries' economic prosperity and security."

ARTIST STATEMENT

EXPERIENCE

Paula Robinson Deare (MIT Urban Studies Fellow '91, '02, MIT Sloan '12) brings communications, technical knowledge and training from the print, radio and television industries. Prior to entering public relations with Fox Broadcasting, she served as a newspaper graphic designer, magazine columnist, radio talk show host and producer\host for cable TV in Boston, MA. After building a variety of media communications production labs and a lecture hall in Boston, Paula received recognition awards from the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the City of Boston and the State of Massachusetts. She grew her place-based media classes into a web-based institute. Paula holds a Strategy and Innovation Certificate from the MIT Sloan School of Management. The MIT Urban Studies & Planning Community Fellows' alumni granted Paula its Excellence in Media and Technology award. Paula established Eworkstyle Institute in 1995, and was CEO and Communications Media Instructor for three decades.

"I resigned from my position as administrator for various reasons. While I studied business management, I really missed the personal connection of teaching. Although I am a skilled illustrator, it took three decades to return to drawing and painting because of administrative work. Last but not least, I've been writing a book for the past few years, but have had to keep delaying completing it to handle administrative duties. *Power of Voice*, my book, centers on teaching multicultural women to enhance their ethnic truth and self-identity. It gives examples of different communication methods, experiences, and best-practices, which are the foundation of what the Multicultural Women Writers Salon is about. Through the book I explore personal and civic issues like, 'Do multicultural individuals feel overlooked by the omission of comprehensive ethnic descriptions across institutions?' Even though I started with illustrations, which segued into radio, video production, and web design, I have added writing and publishing to my creative repertoire. Multicultural voice refers to my belief in the co-existence and acceptance of multiple cultures within our society. By publishing these journals, I show proof of ways that different cultural groups can co-exist peacefully and contribute to a richer, more vibrant world. The salon and journal acknowledge the values, traditions, and beliefs of women across different ethnic and cultural groups. Publishing these voices brings women's stories out of the shadows and into the world. *As we share stories of personal evolution, fundamental equity, healing and community-building left untold in broadcast & web media, we make a stand for diversity, equity and inclusion. This is important because when news spreads crises, or movies and TV shows spread violence, people need to balance those negatives with informative, helpful and inspiring stories; important to human development. These journals are mapping a road toward cultural and economic equity, beginning with intercultural communications. I am also donating showcase web space for human-interest stories of compassion, as well as the fantastic work being done by individuals dedicated to creating positive change around the world.*"

ARTIST STATEMENT

PARTICIPANTS' EXPERIENCE - AUTHORS' FEEDBACK

The personal stories in this journal are sacred because they cross human boundaries and transcend race and time. Each of these stories brings us closer together because they help us remember our shared humanity. Publishing these sacred stories in a journal creates swells of peace and love far beyond what one can experience in any single presentation. This journal has the potential to spread hope around the world. Similarly, continuing the Multicultural Women Writers Salon will encourage more women to write their own stories of life and love.

Author's feedback:

I initially quit because life overwhelmed me outside the program. Paula generously said, "Go to the ocean, take a deep breath, and consult the ancestors about quitting, then get back to me in a few days." Of course, I called Paula and told her I wanted to finish what I had started. The entire experience was cathartic. I cried, and others cheered me on; we laughed together at the ironies women face, and I found myself cheering others on when they were stuck. I finished, and I am so proud of this accomplishment. - Keiko-san Nakamura, Itoman, Okinawa

Perfect timing – one of those God moments where exactly what you need appears when you need it most. But here's the thing about finding your voice; it's terrifying. The thought of others reading my thoughts, judging my writing, questioning whether I had any business telling my story - those fears came flooding in. Then through this class I discovered something profound; the courage running through the women in my family isn't learned behavior, it's in our DNA. – Lena Galloway Reddick, Sarah Lennox Remond

I want to thank Paula and Paul Deare for the amazing opportunity to write this story and for being the best intellectual and excellent mentors a young person can have. This experience has given me valuable time to revisit, dig deeper and celebrate my culture. Because of this writer's salon, I have learned from other strong women, which has shaped my future as a social worker. I can't wait to share this story and offer insight into the intricate complexities of being biracial. - Jessica Melbourne, Connecting to Vietnam

When Paula explained this project, I hesitated, but as we talked; she put me at ease and has made this experience very illuminating. As we talked, she suggested I write about my experience of being raised in the Barros household. Her listening made it easier to tell my story, and her amazing skills as a researcher enlightened me and substantiated my childhood memories. Paula is passionate about showing women like me that my story is worth telling. Through these journals, her work gives those who don't know how to voice their stories the ability to do so. I want to thank Paula for this experience but, more importantly, for becoming my friend. — Naia Barros, Cabo Verde Dynasty

ARTIST STATEMENT

SAMPLE ZOOM CLASSES - MEETING RECAP



Editor/publisher Paula Robinson Deare (top row, far right) is seen hosting a Zoom session with her Multicultural Women Writers Salon group: (top row, left to right) Lena Reddick, Jessica Melbourne, (bottom row Naia Barros and Keiko-san Nakamura. The women talked and wrote over a course of six months and are ready to present their work, the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal, on Oct. 18 at the Low Tide Yacht Club in New Bedford. *Provided Image Paula Robinson Deare*

Story Structure and Development

- **Details**
 - Paula: introduced a framework for introducing characters through behavioral information
 - Paula: emphasized the importance of timeline organization and emotional storytelling
 - Jessica: Planning to write about Vietnam trips and cultural identity
 - Lena: working on a historical narrative about a civil rights figure
- **Conclusion**
 - Stories should have a clear beginning, middle, and end
 - Personal experiences should be balanced with historical context
 - Cultural identity stories need proper pacing and development

Character Development

Discussion of how to incorporate supporting characters and maintain a focus on the main narrative.

- **Details**
 - Paula: Advised on balancing supporting character roles
 - Jessica: Planning to include family members' perspectives
 - Lena: Working to incorporate historical figures without overshadowing main character
- **Conclusion**
 - Supporting characters should enhance but not overshadow the main narrative
 - Family perspectives add depth to cultural identity stories, development and character building
 - Historical figures referenced appropriately within context, with emphasis on timeline organization
- **Details**
 - Jessica: Discussing Vietnamese heritage and multiple trips to Vietnam
 - Paula: Shared experiences about discovering Cape Verdean roots
 - Lena: Working on a historical narrative about abolition

ARTIST STATEMENT

SMART GOALS FOR EDITING & REVISIONS

Most classes had different S.M.A.R.T. Goals tied to needed story features

S pecific	Brainstorm to complete a draft of your story from beginning to end and then edit for large revisions, such as an interesting success before the main feature. Have you given an introductory hook for your readers by sharing your characters' internal conflict and the time and effort taken\will take to overcome said conflict and what it has cost them? How\why will\have they pushed through their fears to realize success? Have you given readers something to cheer for: love, belonging, esteem, recognition, actualization, enlightenment, identity, etc.? Look for discrepancies like left out scenes, names, incidents: make plot notes, map\chart each character, make character descriptions cohesive throughout; similarly with background settings. Create solutions to these discrepancies.
M easurable	Create a ticking clock, complexity and originality with timelines, goals, ages, visitors, etc. As things happen in your story, how long does at least one key factor mentioned above take to happen? Allow that to be the focus of your readers' attention; move it along as an innate measurement of progress. You can also mention how long it took to get there historically and\or in the event's tempo. Make the middle of your story build with anticipation so the reader gains enthusiasm to continue the story journey with you. Use progress, developments, and important settings\events to bring a satisfying conclusion.
A ttainable	What are the big stakes: home, family, life versus small stakes: dinner, gifts, etc. Do all the major events contribute to the overall theme in your story? Are the solutions interesting? Are there irrelevant explanation tangents anywhere? Have you defined the purpose of your story in terms of what each of the characters wants, needs and the obstacles or successes in attaining such? Do the stakes escalate as they win or lose their goal(s)? What is going to cause your character(s) to be different at the end of your story and how have they earned personal growth? Does this\these feature(s) carry through the entire story?
R elevant	Do all the layers and character voices move consistently from beginning to middle (for the layer) and end in that layer? Do characters match throughout? Example: Main character 1, supporting character 2, temporary character 3. Main character's journey starts somewhere in the first 1/3 of the beginning and travels through to the end of the story with a relatable triumph. Character 2 may start before or after character 1 and may or may not travel through the entire story. If their journey is elsewhere, make sure you allow the reader to see where they go and why. Character 3 may start anywhere in the story and may end similarly. Allow the reader to also see what happens with this and any other characters 4, 5, 6, etc.
T ime-oriented	Consider monotony. What is the emerging tempo of your story? Does the overall story start off slowly and then quicken as actions happen? Do you use dreams or 'déjà vu' to tell part of the story? Does the tempo change (or do names change) with each character? Does the tempo change from the past or present to the future? As one or more characters become active, say one takes a long\short flight, train, car to a location, how long does the trip take <u>in that era</u> and how do you acknowledge that timeline and place or leaving\returning in the story?

ARTIST STATEMENT

SOFT SKILLS & TIMELINE

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon provided women writers with the resources they needed to enhance their voices by creating a legacy story. Writers become content developers, trainers, facilitators and presenters in this salon. When participants saw their finished work and heard themselves presenting in front of an audience, they embraced and shared leadership skills as described below. This experience provides a unique opportunity in leadership development, civic engagement and service to the community.

As Ambassadors: participants created stories that develop social capital and help promote sustainable communities, fostering pride of culture to empower people underserved by media - an ambassadorial service. The salon empowered underrepresented women to understand their potential as a center of intellectual conversation and debate for social issues. These women represented their cultures in front of a diverse community, and because their work is in writing and on the global web, they will continue to do so as part of American history.

As Leaders: the Multicultural Women Writers Salon puts its educational stock in building human capital. As authors, these women will continue to be a resource that empowers others to understand and define success for their families and communities. My first step in building and elevating their value as leaders was choosing a venue that imbued luxury with the potential for restorative calm. Site selection was key in this partnering and pilot program. The Low Tide Yacht Club site chosen is a 50-acre waterfront park with over a mile of ocean frontage, which projects into Buzzards Bay. This program received funding from New Bedford Creative, the New Bedford Economic Development Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As Community Voice: the new age of information warfare isn't new; negative communication and low literacy have always been used to disrupt and polarize critical thinking by disinformation, sensationalism, and misinformation, including under-education, burning books, etc. The old way of competing was to provide systematic underdevelopment. Yes, it's still being done, but we cannot allow ourselves to freeze and let it run our families and communities over. We need community voices not only to teach writing and resistance, but to help women stand up and correct history for their families and their communities.

Participation & Responsibility: research participation and writing during the weekdays was a part of the process. All work was turned in or discussed on Saturdays for review. It was the responsibility of participants to listen and respond respectfully during discussions; engage in class activities; and to prepare given assignments. Participants had to understand what was being presented, request clarification, and/or additional help as needed. The discussion about plagiarism included the following: "To avoid plagiarizing, participants must be careful when quoting or citing from materials, paraphrasing from other's work, or submitting work prepared in whole or part by someone else without properly crediting the author(s)." Participants could not present an exercise completed by other participants or from another workshop.

ARTIST STATEMENT

2025 SALON CALENDAR YEAR June 7—Oct 18

Saturday Zoom meetings from 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Publication Production September, Graduation October 18th

LEGEND: Program Design = *blue*, PR & Recruitment = *green*, Writing\Planning = *yellow*, Edits = *orange*

Wk. JANUARY 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1.				1	2	3	4
2.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5a.	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Wk. FEBRUARY 2025							
RESEARCH BEGINS	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
5b.							1
6.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9a.	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT						

Wk. MARCH 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
9b.	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT						1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14a.	30	31					

| | | | | | | | |

Wk. APRIL 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
14b.			1	2	3	4	5
15.	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17.	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18a.	27	28	29	30			
	PR & RECRUITMENT						

Wk. MAY 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
18b.					1	2	3
19.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22.	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	PR & RECRUITMENT						

Wk. JUNE 2025							
CLASSES BEGIN	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
23.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25.	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26.	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27a.	29	30					
	SATURDAY WRITERS SALON						

| | | | | | | | |

Wk. JULY 2025							
WKND EVENTS	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
27b.			1	2	3	4	5
28.	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29.	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30.	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31a.	27	28	29	30	31		
	SATURDAY WRITERS SALON						

Wk. AUGUST 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
31b.						1	2
32.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34.	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36a.	31	FINAL EDITS					

Wk. SEPTEMBER 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
36b.		1	2	3	4	5	6
37.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40a.	28	29	30				
	JOURNAL TO\FR PRINTER						

| | | | | | | | |

Wk. OCTOBER 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
40b.				1	2	3	4
41.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44a.	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	GRADUATION \FINAL REPORT						

Wk. NOVEMBER 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
44b.							1
45.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49a.	30						

Wk. DECEMBER 2025							
	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
49b.		1	2	3	4	5	6
50.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53a.	28	29	30	31			

The Multicultural Women Writers Salon Calendar follows the New Bedford Public Schools' Calendar

ARTIST STATEMENT

COURSE REGISTRATION & CREDITS

Instructor-led training is counted in 'instruction hours' based on college/university transparent process for providing participants' with "Experiential" and/or "Prior Learning Credits."



Use this Form to Register, Keep for Academic Use

Activate registration a) Fill in this form including contact information; b) attend Saturday workshops, and c) download and study assignment and syllabus materials. Writers must attend online Saturday classes and prepare weekly assignments to complete stories for the journal.

DETAIL OF INSTRUCTION HOURS

COURSE INFORMATION:

Check all information carefully and report errors promptly. Payment, if applicable, is due immediately.

THIS FORM IS A PERMISSION SLIP TO PRINT YOUR STORY

MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITER'S SALON

Student ID:

Date: Term:

Student Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

THIS COURSE IS FREE

Telephone:

Email:

How did you hear about this course?:

X

Signature

By signing this form you confirm that you are over 18 and agree to share and give permission for to use and publish your stories & visual media.

EXPLANATIONS OF CODES & MESSAGES:

* X	A change in this course catalogue information	
CH	Course Hours	
CW	Course Weeks	
CRN	Course Reference Number: 5 digit number	
DAY	M = Monday	R = Thursday
	T = Tuesday	F = Friday
	W = Wednesday	S = Saturday
COURSE		
X	INT =	Intermediate; type course awarded
X	ADV =	Advanced; type course awarded
	NCT =	No Classes Taken; no hours award
	CRH =	Number of CRedit Hours awarded
ST (status)	REPD =	REgistered, PaiD
	WLDP=	WaitListed, DePosit 50%

CRN	Courses & Instruction Hours: CRH Details Verified Credit Hours		DAY(S)	TIME	ST
TERM:	Note:	Section 1: COURSE & CLASS DESCRIPTION	DATE(S)	CHARGES	
Course is one complete fourteen week session = 112 credit hours	For classes that are two parts in a series- both must be taken	14 Week Class Session Totaling 112 Credit Hours	Classes repeat at listed times	*Past Due Amount*	.00
		14 Saturdays 2 hours Per Day = 28 hours		*Total Due*	.00
		Monday – Friday Independent Study = 84 hours. Independent Study is Credited @ 6 Hours Per Week.	CRH Breakdown Weekday = Saturday	Course CRH	
CW:	CRN:				
2 weeks	Intro Storytelling	Introduction to Women Writer's Model & Program	12	4	16
3 weeks	Storytelling	Writing, Research & Editing for Bio, Essay, Journal.	18	6	24
3 weeks	Storytelling	Articulating Voice, Interviewing Techniques	18	6	24
2 weeks	Editing Stories	Presenting Concepts Visually Using Mixed Media	12	4	16
2 weeks	Editing\Print	Event Planning and Presenting	12	4	16
2 weeks	Event Planning	Public Speaking Presenting in Mixed Media	12	4	16
14 weeks		Total Credit Hours	84	28	112
Note: You must register for and attend classes in order to be approved for class hour credits					

ARTIST STATEMENT

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

PRESS RELEASE



Multicultural Women Writers Salon

POWER OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS COURSES & SHOWCASES

170 West Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02744

Paula Robinson Deare, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief
prdeare@eworkstyle.org - 617-290-5830

V. Paul Deare, Co-Publisher, Senior Editor
vpdeare@eworkstyle.org - 617-869-8601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS SALON JOURNAL LAUNCH

New Bedford — Kick off this fall season with live intercultural conversations at the launch of our latest journal written by incredible women who are now authors from our Multicultural Women Writers Salon! This event is free and open to the public.

New Bedford Creative and the New Bedford Economic Development Council collaborated with the National Endowment for the Arts to provide the *Art is Everywhere* and the *Wicked Cool Places* programs. As a result, Paula Robinson Deare received a grant to create the Multicultural Women Writers Salon, a rich six-month ethnic insight, intercultural learning, and writing experience; designed to attract and connect women of diverse backgrounds; to share stories of life and love. During the salon, the writers bonded to support each other as they built a therapeutic and liberating healing practice. At this weekend's journal launch, you will hear directly from the writers about their rigorous learning practice. They'll share intensive experiences and storytelling secrets while offering signed copies of their published work, the Multicultural Women Writers Salon journal. A beautiful publication containing stories from local to global relationships to embracing ancestry, belonging, culture, education, family, heritage, history, humanity, and integrity. The author's writing weaves leadership, pride, risk, self-discovery, and travel with the power and voice of female strength. As part of creating this journal, they encouraged each other, and in doing so found their stories highlight our shared humanity. This Saturday's journal launch event introduces our Multicultural Women Writers, including:

- **Keiko-san Nakamura** who shares experiences that come from ten years after the bombing of Nagasaki, when her parents had to make a difficult and fateful choice in order to save her life.
- **Lena Reddick** as she teaches us about her ancestor, a young woman from the 1800s who not only created a way to challenge segregation but also forever changed history.
- **Jessica Melbourne** will share how her mom left the aftermath of war in Vietnam and struggled to connect her children with their biracial American and Vietnamese families and histories.
- **Naia Barrows** recounts childhood experiences witnessing the prelude to Cabo Verde's independence and, in the U.S. being groomed in a socially/politically active home via travel.

When: Saturday, October 18th, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where: The Low Tide Yacht Club, 1000B South Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02744.

Advance copies of this journal and more publications are available at www.eworkstyle.org.

#

ARTIST STATEMENT

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

EVENT POSTER, JOURNALS & LARGE FLYERS,

POWERFUL STORIES OF LIFE & LOVE

JOURNAL LAUNCH

Have your copy signed by the authors



Paula Robinson Deare
PUBLISHER



Scan to
Order Online



Multicultural Women Writers Salon



Economy,
Work &
Lifestyle
Journal



COMMUNICATIONS TODAY



CULTURAL AWARENESS, DEFINITION, DELIBERATION & REFLECTION

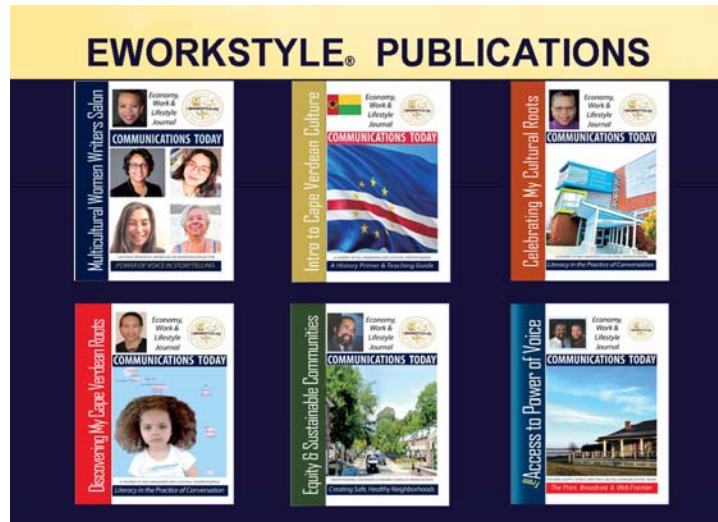
POWER OF VOICE IN STORYTELLING

Find more stories at www.eworkstyle.org

ARTIST STATEMENT

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

POSTCARDS & HALF FLYERS



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Multicultural Women WRITERS SALON JOURNAL



KEIKO NAKAMURA LENA REDDICK JESSICA MELBOURNE NAIA BARROS

THE AUTHORS ABOVE PRESENT LOCAL-GLOBAL STORIES
The personal stories in this journal are sacred because they cross human boundaries and transcend race and time. Each of these stories brings us closer together because they help us remember our shared humanity. Publishing these sacred stories in a journal creates swells of peace and love far beyond what one can experience in any single presentation. This journal has the potential to spread hope around the world. Just as continuing the Multicultural Women Writers Salon can reach more women to write their own stories of life and love.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

EVENT PACKET

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[Multicultural Womens Salon Flyer:](#)
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[WOMENS SALON REPORT:](#)

[INTERVIEW WITH PAULA - VIDEO](#)

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Multicultural Women Writers Salon



COMMUNICATIONS TODAY

POWER OF VOICE IN STORYTELLING

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Press Coverage

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Standard-Times

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025 | SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM

Writing group helps area women tell their stories

Matthew Ferreira
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

They're four Greater New Bedford women from very different backgrounds, but over a course of six months, they found they had more in common than anyone would have known.

And while the journey of looking back on their experiences — and figuring out how to write them down — was long and hard, it was worthwhile, says Paula Robinson Deare, CEO of the nonprofit Eworkstyle Institute and editor/publisher of the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal. The women are set to launch the journal with an event on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Low Tide Yacht Club in New Bedford.

The book, to be available for purchase that day, is the product of the women's weekly meetings, which started earlier in 2025.

"Women have a hard time in general

See STORIES, Page 2A

2A | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025 | THE STANDARD-TIMES | SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY

Stories

Continued from Page 1A

getting published, and women of color have a much harder time altogether, so I thought it we could start telling their stories we could start finding the humanity in each other and our similarities," Deare said, "despite the divisive storytelling that's going around."

"So I proposed to bring multicultural people together, particularly women, to tell stories of their history and culture."

The women who found themselves called to Deare's program — funded by an "Art is Everywhere!" grant from New Bedford Creative in partnership with National Endowment for the Arts — tended to have a lot of heavy material to unpack when it came to getting started, which made it an intense experience not all were ready for, Deare said.

"[Our gatherings] were primarily online because people got so busy, but so much would happen during those — from crying, to thinking people were going to quit and then they came back; all kinds of emotional turmoil," Deare said. "I had 12 people sign up and only four stuck through the entire process."

Meet the writers

For the four who persisted, Deare says fit was a rewarding experience in which the women became each other's emotional support while also sorting through how to best tell their stories to the world.

Keiko-san Nakamura, of New Bedford, is one who almost succumbed to the emotional difficulties of reflecting on her experiences, Deare said, but in the end, chose to stick with it. According to Deare, Nakamura wrote about her experience as a Japanese child born 10 years after the United States' atomic bombing of Nagasaki during World War II. Her parents ultimately made the heart-wrenching decision to put her up for adoption as the community starved and hope dwindled.

"She had such a hard time telling her story because it was the first time saying these words out in public, but she



Editor/publisher Paula Robinson Deare (top row, far right) is seen hosting a Zoom session with her Multicultural Women Writers Salon group: (top row, left to right) Lena Reddick, Jessica Melbourne, (bottom row) Naia Barros and Keiko-san Nakamura. The women talked and wrote over a course of six months and are ready to present their work, the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal, on Oct. 18 at the Low Tide Yacht Club in New Bedford. PROVIDED IMAGE PAULA ROBINSON DEARE

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Paula Robinson Deare

felt it needed to be said," Deare said.

Lena Reddick is an African-American woman from Dartmouth who wrote about "one of her ancestors who led one of the early protests for desegregating businesses in Boston," Deare said, noting those actions in the 1800s led to a chain reaction that continued to pro-

duce positive change thereafter. According to Deare, the matter involved a number of notable lawyers, including Charles Sumner, namesake of Boston's Sumner Tunnel.

Jessica Melbourne, of New Bedford, is half-Vietnamese, and wrote about her mother being one of the so-called "boat people" who fled post-war turmoil in Vietnam, according to Deare. "[Jessica's mom] married an American, and she talks about trying to connect her Vietnamese family with her American family," Deare said. "She also talks about what it was like growing up biracial and then going to Vietnam for the first time."

Naia Barros, of New Bedford, came to the United States from Cape Verde at age 13, when she and her brother came to live with their father, Deare said. "And what she didn't realize until she was an adult was that she was raised in the household where the foundations for the independence of Cape Verde were happening," Deare said. "So she got to meet Amílcar Cabral and a number of the other folks who were a part of the success of Cape Verdean independence, and she talks about ... how she was able to travel internationally as a child and

the impact that had on her life."

What's next?

At the Oct. 18 book launch, Deare said attendees will hear about the women's stories and what it took to write them, as well as have a chance to buy signed copies of the finished product.

After seeing the impact this project has had on its participants, Deare said her wheels are already turning on how to continue it.

"What I'm hoping is we can continue the journal series and keep having new writers come in because particularly women of color in these times are having a really hard time keeping their families together," Deare said. "I'm hoping in the future I can get Latino and Native American voices."

If you go

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Press Coverage



New Bedford area women find support at writers group. How to read their unique stories.



[Matthew Ferreira](#)

The Standard-Times

Oct. 15, 2025, 4:02 a.m. ET



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- Four women from Greater New Bedford are publishing their personal stories in the Multicultural Women Writers Salon Journal.
- The project, led by Paula Robinson Deare, aims to amplify the voices of multicultural women.
- The journal includes stories about post-WWII Japan, the desegregation movement in Boston, Vietnam, and Cape Verdean independence.
- A book launch event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Low Tide Yacht Club in New Bedford.

They're four Greater New Bedford women from very different backgrounds, but over a course of six months, they found they had more in common than anyone would have known.

ARTIST STATEMENT

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