

# color collective

womxn, femmes, and non-binary persons of color

COMMUNITY  
*Writing*  
CENTER

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Utah



Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm:  
January 27th, February 10th  
& 24th, March 9th & 23rd,  
and April 6th

The Color Collective is a designated community space and multi-genre program for Queer, Womxn, Femmes & Non-Binary Persons of Color (Black, Indigenous, POC) who are living in Utah. This Fall-to-Spring program is designed for participants to come together for healing, empowerment, and reconciliation in their experiences of racism, sexism, and other intersectional oppressions.

The Color Collective programming will include education and dialogue, community collaboration, highlighting POC community organizing in Utah, self-care practices, and forming new connections with other like-minded individuals. Thank you to Meeyong Schwartz, Sarah May, Viviana Felix, the co-founders of Color Collective, for creating a program that is BIPOC driven, and centered in our local community.

Please join us every other Saturday from January 27th - April 6th for our 2024 Color Collective workshops!

## Foster Healing and Empowerment:

Create a safe and supportive environment for healing and empowerment.

## Promote Education and Dialogue:

Facilitate educational sessions and dialogues to deepen understanding of systemic issues and shared experiences.

## Encourage Community Collaboration:

Support collaboration within the POC community in Utah to amplify collective voices and address common challenges.

## Cultivate Self-Care and Healing Practices:

Provide resources and workshops for self-care, addressing the impacts of oppression and promoting resilience.

## Facilitate New Connections and Networks:

Enable participants to form new connections and networks for support, resource-sharing, and collaboration.

## What's Inside

- 2 – COLOR COLLECTIVE
- 3 – CWC WORKSHOPS
- 3 – COLLECTIVE PIECES
- 7 – WRITING GROUPS

COMMUNITY  
*Writing*  
CENTER

Facebook - @CommunityWritingCenter

Instagram - @SLCC\_CWC

(801) 957-2192

slcc.edu/cwc

210 E 400 S #8

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Utah

The program will consist of 6 sessions held every other Saturday starting on January 27th, 2024, at the CWC in the City Library. Each session will be facilitated by local QTBIPOC. Hosted in collaboration with YWCA Utah, the sessions will cover various topics related to identity, history, and the future. Other community partners include the Salt Lake Community College Writing Center, Utah Arts Fest and UMOCA.

### Saturday, January 27th, 2024 : On Identity - Who I Am

In this workshop, participants will explore their own identities, discussing the complex interplay of race, gender, and other factors that shape who they are. Through guided discussions and activities, individuals will have the opportunity to reflect on their unique identities and share their experiences in a safe and supportive space.

[Register for On Identity - Who I Am](#)

### February 10th, 2024: First Peoples - Where We Come From

This workshop delves into the history and experiences of Indigenous peoples, examining their rich cultures, struggles, and contributions. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the origins of First Peoples and their ongoing narratives, while fostering appreciation for their heritage.

[Register for First Peoples - Where We Come From](#)

### February 24th, 2024: Immigration and Migration - The Borders that Create Us

Immigration and Migration explores the impact of borders and migration on the lives of individuals and communities. Through meaningful conversations and storytelling, participants will engage with the experiences of those who have moved across borders

and the consequences of such journeys.

[Register for Immigration and Migration - The Borders that Create Us](#)

### March 9th, 2024: Diasporas - Communities in the Making

This workshop focuses on the concept of diasporas, examining how communities are formed, evolve, and thrive in different geographic and cultural contexts. Participants will explore the resilience and cultural richness of diasporic communities through personal narratives and shared stories.

[Register for Diasporas - Communities in the Making](#)

### March 23rd, 2024: Hybridity and Liminality - Against the Binaries of Existence

Hybridity and Liminality invite participants to challenge binary thinking and explore the dynamic exchange of ideas and identities that occurs through migration and globalization. The workshop delves into the commingling of cultures and ideas, fostering an appreciation for the innovative and transformative potential of hybrid identities.

[Register for Hybridity and Liminality - Against the Binaries of Existence](#)

### April 6th, 2024: Looking Towards the Future

In this culminating workshop, participants have the opportunity to showcase their work, insights, and experiences with the community. In an open and supportive format, individuals will present their creative and reflective contributions, furthering connections, and strengthening the bonds formed throughout "The Color Collective" program.

[Register for Looking Towards the Future](#)



## Writing for Change: Letter Writing

### 1-Part Workshop

January 13 (Saturday), 1-2:30 p.m.

Join the CWC and Political Scientist Dr. David Hubert during this legislative session to learn techniques of writing for change through letters to editors, institutional administrators, and public officials. Come with an issue in mind and explore persuasive strategies and format recommendations.

**Cost: Free. Registration is required.**

## Writing for Mental Health

### 3-Part Workshop

January 16, 23, & 30 (Tuesdays), 6-8 p.m.

Personal Narrative as Therapy (Jan. 16): Join us for an inspiring journey of self-discovery and healing through the power of storytelling in this unique creative writing workshop grounded in the principles of Narrative Therapy. This therapeutic approach emphasizes the stories we tell about our lives and how they shape our sense of self. In this workshop, participants will explore the profound connection between personal narratives and emotional well-being. Through a series of engaging exercises and guided discussions, we will delve into the art of crafting and reframing stories to promote self-reflection, resilience, and personal growth.

Empowered Editing of Your Life Story (Jan. 23): Sometimes, problem-saturated narratives can hijack our life stories. When this happens, we stop being the protagonists of our journeys and become sad, stuck, secondary characters. Luckily, we can rediscover our true values, identities, and characters with some good editing tools. In this workshop, you will learn such editing techniques and discover newfound personal strength in reauthoring your life story.

Writing the Next Chapter: Venturing into the Unknown (Jan. 30): What would happen if you could rewrite your life story from a different point of view? In the final workshop of this three-part series, discover how to reclaim the freedom and responsibility to write the next chapter of your story in a way that opens up the plot and possibilities of your life.

**Cost: \$30. Registration is required.**

## Romance

### 1-Part Workshop

February 3 (Saturday), 1-3 p.m.

Love! From romance, heartbreak, and even triangles, love is a big genre and theme in writing. Join us in our workshop to learn how you can explore this complicated feeling in your own writing.

**Cost: \$15. Registration is required.**

## Donuts and Discussions Workshop for Highschoolers

### 1-Part Workshop

February 10 (Saturday), 2-4 p.m.

Come down and hang out with us at the Community Writing Center! We want to share tasty treats and great ideas while doing some engaging writing! We want to cover topics that are modern and relevant to our lives! This workshop is for Ages 14-18, let's eat some donuts and Write Stuff!

**Cost: Free. Registration is required.**

## The Worldly Difference Between Plot and Story

### 1-Part Workshop

February 15 (Thursday), 6-8 p.m.

Dynamic world building while creating realistic characters within a story can be tricky, especially when it comes to the plot. Often writers miss an important plot point while building their worlds and inventing the characters who will live in them. What is the difference between plot and story? Join the CWC as we delve into shaping stories with compelling plots while also exploring the important differences between "story" and "plot."

**Cost: \$15. Registration is required.**

## She Said. Womxn's Voices in Utah Series Workshop 1: Queer(ing)Womxnhood in Utah

### 1-Part Workshop

March 2 (Saturday), 11:30-1:30 p.m.

When womxnhood in Utah is discussed, queer womxn's experiences and identities are often tangential if they're discussed at all. In this workshop, we'll explore the diversity of queer womxnhood in Utah by exploring what makes queer femininity, embodiment, experiences, identities, representations, and writing unique and different from that of our non-queer counterparts. The workshop will examine

and dissect the historical and cultural impacts of the frequent erasure of queer womxn's voices and experiences in broader discussions about womxn's liberation. We'll also explore how damaging storytelling tropes about queer womxn have been used and how we can reclaim and subvert them in our own storytelling. No previous writing experience or preparation required!

**Cost: Free. Registration is required.**

### She Said. Womxn's Voices in Utah Series Workshop 2:

1-Part Workshop

March 16 (Saturday), 11:30-1:30 p.m.

For the last four years, Utah has been ranked the worst state for womxn's equality in the areas of workplace environment, education, health and political empowerment. In this workshop in partnership with Amplify Utah, participants will have an opportunity to explore the experience of being a womxn in Utah living in these cultural and political contexts.

**Cost: Free. Registration is required.**

### Book Design and Layout

1-Part Workshop

March 30 (Saturday), 1-3 p.m..

Learn the basics of book design! We will cover designing both the cover and inside pages of a book. This workshop will walk you through how to set up a document in InDesign, import text, layout pages, and add details like pages numbers and images to create an appealing design.

**Cost: \$15. Registration is required.**

### NaPoWriMo '24

3-Part Workshop

April 6, 13, & 20 (Saturdays), 1:30-3:30 p.m..

April is National Poetry Month! Join the CWC for a workshop series that celebrates poetry in all its glory! We'll explore various genres of poetry, learn to compose poems, and practice revising and sharing our work. We also encourage you to submit to our 30 Poems in 30 Days contest – winners will have a chapbook of their original work published by the CWC.

**Cost: \$45. Registration is required.**

### On Leaving and Finding Home: Asian Refugee Identities and Storytelling

1-Part Workshop

March 12 (Tuesday), 6-8 p.m..

Voices and stories from the Asian diaspora contain the complexities of identity, belonging, and the myriad emotions of navigating multiple cultures in America. The Asian diaspora writing workshop will help writers navigate these topics and create a sense of identity, community, and voice through writing. Even if you are not Asian, people of other diasporas are welcome to join.

**Cost: \$15. Registration is required.**

### Dystopian World Building

1-Part Workshop

April 23 (Tuesday), 6-8 p.m..

A dystopia, also called a cacotopia or anti-utopia, relates to an imagined state or society where there is great suffering or injustice. Some might even consider that we live in a nightmarish dystopia already! How do you imagine your dystopian reality? Join us to go over the basic building blocks to create your ultimate dystopian world.

**Cost: \$15. Registration is required.**

### Creative Writing for Young Writers

1-Part Workshop

April 27 (Saturday), 2-4 p.m..

Hey Writers ages 11-14! Join us for an interactive workshop where you share your creative ideas on things you want to write about when you sign up for this workshop, so we can create a workshop built for you! Topics like: world building, character creation, nature writing, and travel writing and more! Sign up and let us know what creative writing topics you are interested in learning more about!

**Cost: Free. Registration is required.**

*Workshop Fees Can Be  
Waived Upon Request*



## Immigrant Reflection

By Elisar Soueidi

My family and I immigrated to Utah back in the summer of 1996. We came to Utah because that is where my grandparents had landed before us, having made their escape in the mid 80's fleeing from the disastrous Lebanese civil war that started in 1975.

I was born at the start of 1990 some months before the civil war was declared to have ended. You see, when my mom went into labor they were being forced to hide in underground make shift bomb shelters with folks from the neighborhood. There were mattresses on the ground, several ladders attached together they used to get in and out, it was stuffy and unpleasant, there were rats. My dad tells me that his car was the only one left undamaged on the street, and he had to bribe some guy for gas to put in it to get my mom to the hospital, as the bombs kept flying down on them. My older sister was left with great aunts and uncles, and they all knew that my parents may never return given the circumstances they were going out to.

My mom gave birth to me with no power, and bombs flying, I was born in war. My mom and dad say that I saved their lives on the way back, a sickly premature newborn, yellow from jaundice, easing the tensions through rival check points, pleading with officers to spare them as they show them the baby. I thought about this as my sister had her baby recently, I thought how my dad couldn't see my

older sister being born, let alone did not get to see her for a few months after because of war.

I think how my parents met, got married and had kids in war, and how they dreamed for safety and peace from violence for their children, for them all to survive. I think about this as I hear about Israel's unjust occupation of Palestine, an apartheid, illegitimate state. Murdering thousands of Palestinians in Gaza, bombing whole buildings on top of families as they sleep. And I think of my Palestinian grandma who worked so hard to bring me here, to bring us here to safety.

And I think what my life could be in the middle east. We have no home to go back to, the middle east has been tainted by the western imperialist violence imposed on the beautiful people and cultures, those we are watching being decimated right before our eyes. I wonder how I will share my culture with our future generations, I dream of this nostalgia, one that I may not be able to share the beauty of such.

Immigrants are here because of the violence and harm procured from colonial powers. We have had no agency over land, no autonomy over our culture and way of life. To blame anyone for fleeing violence, for wanting to live, to blame anyone for wanting to survive their families, all of it is absurd. We Arabs are NOT just people who live through war and bombs, we are a plethora of cultures and voices, each uniquely beautiful and worthy of celebrating. I want to be seen as a human worthy of a life so much more than violence.



Photo by Tim Broadbent

## Et Cetera

By Nalu Francis

When eggs were thrown on the windshield, loogies spit on the windows, my mother told me it was because she was brown and my father white. My mother was taken from the reserve in a midnight deal, tied to the back of a motorcycle and given to a white woman. She was raised to be white. My father is a blue-eyed, blond, white spectacle. He was born and raised white.

I was raised by a brown woman to be as white as possible, and I never had a relationship with either side of my family. One side was gone before my birth. The other side was always disinterested in me or actively kept away by my mother. I had my adopted grandmother. I used to daydream about connecting with the removed side of my family, travelling to the great plains and connecting with a culture and community I was robbed of.

But my mother's trauma failed to resolve. It festered and warted, rekindling addictions and violence. It didn't get better when she contacted her biological family. She was hoping for resolution, warmth in lost family. But her mother was dying of cancer, her only aunt a crippling alcoholic, everyone else dead or gone.

Eventually I came to associate the culture with my only connection to it. Vodka, pills, screaming, and smashed living rooms – that was the culture. I haven't seen or spoken to my mother in over three years. I've long since lost interest in culture.

Any sense of my identity's been mitigated and I've no interest in the rhetoric. I reap the benefits of passing as white – that's my identity.

## Different Colored Roots

By Nic Nuusila

I have slowly and tentatively been putting roots down in Salt Lake City since I moved here a little over six years ago. The last few months have been rough but I have leaned on the roots I have to hold me steady while simultaneously putting down more intentional roots.

I've made new connections with incredible people who have powerful stories to tell. Many friends have moved here from Latin America either in their lifetime or their parent's lifetime.

Talking about when they go back to visit is always a wonderful conversation, seeing the pictures and hearing the lore of their family and what they mean to them is something special.

From Bolivia to Mexico my friends have roots that spread across countries below and above ground that they hold space for in their lives and I get to witness it. We don't talk about the difference in how they connect with Salt Lake City, Utah but their body language and mannerisms tell their own story of different shaped roots. From the colorful words and expressions they share for their homeland to their contentment and relationship with this land is a conversation to be had, and one I hope to have in the near future.



Photo by Diego Aguilar

### Need feedback on your writing?

One-on-one writing coaching is always free. Our coaching is open to anyone who needs help or feedback on their writing. Schedule your 30-minute session today! Last coaching session is one hour before closing.

### SLCC Community Writing Center Hours

210 E 400 S, Suite 8, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, for groups/workshops only

**ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LOCATED AT 210 EAST, 400 SOUTH, SUITE 8 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

## Community Writing Series Groups 2024

The Community Writing Series (CWS) aims to provide individuals with opportunities to express themselves and to share their stories, histories, and voices with their communities. The new year is a great time to set some writing goals. A great way to find some accountability, and inspiration is by attending our writing groups! We have many to choose from and they happen several times a month, some are even genre specific, and all are always free and open to people who write at any level. We care to provide positive writing experiences and to cultivate and empower community via the tool that is writing.

For more information about our writing groups, please visit our website at: <https://www.slcc.edu/cwc/>

WRITING GROUP SCHEDULES: Please note that all our groups are open to the public you do not need to sign up prior to attending a meeting.

### Get It Written!

When: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Writing Center, 210 E. 400 S. #8 Salt Lake City, UT

### Poetry Writing Group

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: Marmalade Library, 280 W 500 N, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

For questions about this group, please contact pat.makingstuff@gmail.com.

### What's Your Story?: Creative Nonfiction Group

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Writing Center, 210 E. 400 S. #8 Salt Lake City, UT

## Millcreek Community Writing Group

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Where: Millcreek Library 2266 E. Evergreen Ave. East Millcreek, UT, 84109

For questions about this group, please contact: millcreekcommunitywritinggroup@gmail.com

## Queer, Trans and Non-Binary Writing Group

When: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Writing Center, 210 E. 400 S. #8 Salt Lake City, UT

## Silver Pen Writing Group

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Writing Center, 210 E. 400 S. #8 Salt Lake City, UT

## Escritores de Utah Writing Group

When: 3rd Saturday from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Writing Center, 210 E. 400 S. #8 Salt Lake City, UT

## Playhouse Writing Cohort

When: 1st Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Online: Register for Zoom Link

