

# Lift Up Your Pens!

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## All-genre workshop with Sharon Chmielarz



Date and Time: Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon.

Location: Jack Pines Resort, located 9 miles west of Park Rapids, MN (1 mile west of Osage, MN).

Address: 53014 State Highway 34, Osage, MN 56570

Cost of Workshop and Catered Lunch: \$60. (You will receive a coupon for the lunch.)

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### Course Description:

Sharon Chmielarz says:

Why did Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) write, "Read over your compositions, and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is especially fine, strike it out." That goes for prose as well as poetry. Poetry may say it best in 2023 or 1723 but then as now, less is still more. How so? And how to make less more? Novelist, learn from poets. Poets, learn from prose.

And how do we deliver what we've written? We'll practice in this workshop. First on my stuff, then on volunteers'. This is a friendly workshop gathering, a place to improve and shine with lyric, narrative, or prose. Bring an example of your work. We'll practice recognizing your strengths and weaknesses.

**Sharon Chmielarz** has had fourteen books of poetry published, the most recent, *Duet in the Little Blue Church, New and Selected*, March 2023. Her book *little eternities*, 2017, received the silver medallion from the Independent Book Publishers Award in poetry. *The Widow's House* was a finalist for the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards and is listed in *Kirkus Review's the 100 Best Books of 2015* as was, in 2019, *The J Horoscope*. Her 2015 book, *Visibility: Ten Miles, a Prairie Memoir in Photography and Poetry*, was a finalist for the Midwest Book Awards as was *Speaking in Riddles*, 2021. Her *The Other Mozart*, a biography of Mozart's sister in poetry, was made into an opera. Her prose and fiction publications include essays on writing in *Women on Poetry; Educators as Writers; A View from the Loft*.

Also published were travel memoirs in *The Talking of Hands; An Inn near Kyoto; The House on Via Gombito* and three picture books: *The Pied Piper of Hamelin, End of Winter, and Down at Angels*. Chmielarz was born and raised in Mobridge, South Dakota, attended the University of Minnesota, taught German and some English for thirty years in a public school. Before his death she was married to Tad for thirty-three years.

The Talking Stick 32 **Book Release Party** and this Jackpine Writers' Bloc **Writers' Workshop** will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Jack Pines Resort, 53014 State Highway 34, Osage, MN 56570. See more info on book party flyer.

The workshop will run from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon. The Workshop includes catered lunch at noon. The Book Release Party will start at 1 P.M. and run till approximately 4 P.M. There is no charge to attend the Book Release Party. Lunch at noon will be on your own if you are just attending the Book Release Party. A restaurant (The Cookhouse) is available at Jack Pines Resort but we do not yet know their hours of operation. Any dinner/supper after the Book Release Party will be on your own.

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**YOU MUST PREREGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP. Please email Sharon Harris at [sharrick1@wcta.net](mailto:sharrick1@wcta.net) to sign up. Phone 218-732-3782 if questions. Be sure to include your name and mailing address, phone number, and email address. Make your \$60 check out to Jackpine Writers' Bloc and mail it to: Sharon Harris, 13320 149<sup>th</sup> Ave, Menahga, MN 56464.**

**We will limit this workshop to the first 30 participants and then put names on a waiting list.**