**Visiting Creative Nonfiction Writer**

**Lauren Hough**

**Monday, February 8, 11-11:50 AM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 213,**   
**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922)

**Reading Link:** [**Lauren Hough - Speaking in Tongues (suny.edu)**](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/MCC_CreativeArts_LaurenHough_SpeakingInTongues/view)

Lauren Hough is the author of the essay collection, *Leaving Isn't the Hardest Thing*. She was born in Berlin and raised in seven countries, and West Texas. She's been an airman in the Air Force, a green-aproned barista, a bartender, a livery driver, and, for a time, a cable guy. Her work has appeared in *Grant*, *Wrath-Bearing Tree*, *The Guardian*, and *Huffpost*. She lives in Austin.

* The essay that went viral and got her a book deal > <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cable-tech-dick-cheney-sex-dungeon_n_5c0ea571e4b06484c9fd4c21>
* An essay about growing up in a cult > <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/27/family-religious-cult-former-member-recalls-experiences>
* Part of a two-part series about DACA and being gay in the military > <https://www.wrath-bearingtree.com/2017/12/memoir-solitaire-by-lauren-hough/>
* Tedx talk about doorways and code switching > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXhiwukPatc&feature=youtu.be>
* Can also be followed on Twitter!

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**Visiting Creative Nonfiction Writer**

**Jaquira Díaz**

**Monday, March 1, 11-11:50 AM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 213**

**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922)

**Reading Link:** [**Jaquira Díaz - reading from Ordinary Girls (suny.edu)**](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/MCC_CreativeArts_JaquiraDiaz_OrdinaryGirls/view)

Jaquira Díaz was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Miami. She is the author of *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*, winner of a Whiting Award, a Florida Book Awards Gold Medal, and a Lambda Literary Awards finalist. *Ordinary Girls* was a Summer/Fall 2019 Indies Introduce Selection, a Fall 2019 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Notable Selection, a November 2019 Indie Next Pick, and a Library Reads October pick. Díaz's work has been published in *The Guardian*, *Time Magazine*, *Conde Nast Traveler*,*T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, and *The Best American Essays 2016*, among other publications. Her second book, *I Am Deliberate: A Novel*, is forthcoming from Algonquin Books.  She splits her time between Montréal and Miami Beach, with her partner, the writer Lars Horn.

* “Girls, Monsters” > <https://www.craftliterary.com/2020/07/15/girls-monsters-jaquira-diaz/>
* A timely Black Lives and Trans Lives Matter piece written this past summer > <https://time.com/5859204/america-in-crisis/>
* This Baby Lollipops story plays a central role in her book > <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/inside-brutal-baby-lollipops-murder-case-that-shook-south-florida-113594/>
* “My Mother and Mercy” > <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/464/my-mother-and-mercy>
* Excerpt from her book in Longreads > <https://longreads.com/2019/10/29/carrying-histories-of-protest/> > also in Longreads are comments she’s made on the pages of her own book
* Reading of part of an essay/chapter that was published in *Best American Essays 2016* > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqOQwrG5QPY>

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**Visiting Poet**

**Elana Bell**

**Monday, March 8, 1-1:50 PM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 113**

**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/83266829710**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/83266829710)

**Reading Link:** [**Elana Bell - reading from Mother Country (suny.edu)**](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/MCC_CreativeArts_ElanaBell_MotherCountry/view)

Elana is the author of *Mother Country*, (BOA Editions 2020) a book of poems about motherhood, fertility, and mental illness. Her debut collection of poetry, *Eyes, Stones* (LSU Press 2012), received the 2011 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, and brings her complex heritage as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors to consider the difficult question of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Elana is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Jerome Foundation, the Edward Albee Foundation, and the Brooklyn Arts Council. Her writing has appeared in *AGNI*, *Harvard Review*, and the *Massachusetts Review*, among others.  She was an inaugural finalist for the Freedom Plow Award for Poetry & Activism, an award that recognizes and honors a poet who is doing innovative and transformative work at the intersection of poetry and social change. Elana teaches poetry to actors at the Juilliard School and sings with the Resistance Revival Chorus, a group of women activists and musicians committed to bringing joy and song to the resistance movement. [www.elanabell.com](http://www.elanabell.com/)

* A number of poems from her first book > <https://poets.org/poems/elana-bell>
* From her new book > <https://theadroitjournal.org/issue-twenty-eight/elana-bell-poetry/> and <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/154627/mother-country> and <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/154630/invocation-for-my-unborn> and <https://www.splitthisrock.org/poetry-database/poem/miracle>

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**Visiting Playwright**

**Stephanie Leary**

**Friday, March 19, 10-10:50 AM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 273**

**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/89071689810**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/89071689810)

**Reading Link:** [**Commanding Space by Stephanie Leary (performed by Anisha Stallworth) (suny.edu)**](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/MCC_CreativeArts_StephanieLeary_CommandingSpace/view)

Stephanie Leary's plays include *An Apple a Day*, *A Polished Slavery*, *Unleavened, Relay,* and *Spinach: The Often Overlooked and Usually Underappreciated Nutritional Value of Like at First Sight*. Stephanie's work has been produced and/or developed by Syracuse Stage, the Sankofa Theatre Festival, and the International Performing Arts for Youth.  Her play, *Commanding Space: The Rise of Annie Easley and the Centaur Rocket*, was recently awarded a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project. Stephanie was born and raised in Rochester, New York, where she still lives. She is a graduate of Monroe Community College and SUNY Brockport and obtained her M.F.A. in playwriting from Goddard College.

* *Commanding Space* > PDF, attached

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**Visiting Playwright**

**Hilary Bettis**

**Friday, March 26, 10-10:50 AM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 243**

**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/89071689810**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/89071689810)

**Reading Link:** [**Ghosts of Lote Bravo - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-jkEgLuoes&feature=youtu.be)

Hilary Bettis is a critically-acclaimed playwright whose work has been developed and produced all over the country, including Roundabout Theatre, New Georges, The Sol Project, Miami New Drama, Studio Theatre, Alley Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, La Jolla Playhouse, amongst others. In television Bettis won the 2019 Writer’s Guild of America Award for her work on the Emmy Award winning FX series “The Americans.” She wrote on the Hulu miniseries “The Dropout,” and Amazon’s “Rodeo Queens.” She’s an alumni of the Sundance Institute Episodic TV Lab, and is developing projects for AMC, Hulu, and PatMa. She’s a graduate of The Juilliard School.

* *The Ghosts of Lote Bravo* > PDF, attached
* Playwright Interview > PDF, attached
* Production Review > <https://tucson.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/borderlands-premieres-the-ghosts-of-lote-bravo/article_2c7ddfc2-5b71-52bb-8a86-c238f5587533.html>

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**Visiting Creative Nonfiction Writer**

**Sejal Shah**

**Monday, April 19, 11-11:50 AM**

**Hosted by Maria Brandt, ENG 213**

**Zoom Link:** [**https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922**](https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/86446709922)

**Reading Link:** [**Sejal Shah - readings from This Is One Way to Dance (suny.edu)**](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/MCC_CreativeArts_SejalShah_ThisIsOneWayToDance/view)

Sejal Shah is the author of the debut memoir in essays, *This Is One Way to Dance* (University of Georgia Press, June 2020). Her essay collection reflects on culture, family, language, and place. Her stories and essays have appeared widely in print and online—including *Brevity*, *Guernica*, *Conjunctions*, the *Kenyon Review Online*, and *Longreads*. She is the recipient of a 2018 New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship in Fiction and residencies or fellowships from Blue Mountain Center, the Kenyon Review Writers’ Workshop, Kundiman, and The Millay Colony. She received her BA in English from Wellesley College and her MFA in fiction from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Sejal recently completed a story collection and is at work on a memoir about mental health and academia. She is on the faculty of the Rainier Writing Workshop, the low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University. She also teaches creative writing in community-based workshops and privately. The daughter of Gujarati parents who immigrated to the United States from India and Kenya, Sejal lives in her hometown of Rochester, New York.

* “365 Pelham Road” > <https://masonstreetreview.org/2020/05/23/365-pelham-road/>
* “Things People Said” > <https://brevitymag.com/nonfiction/things-people-said/>