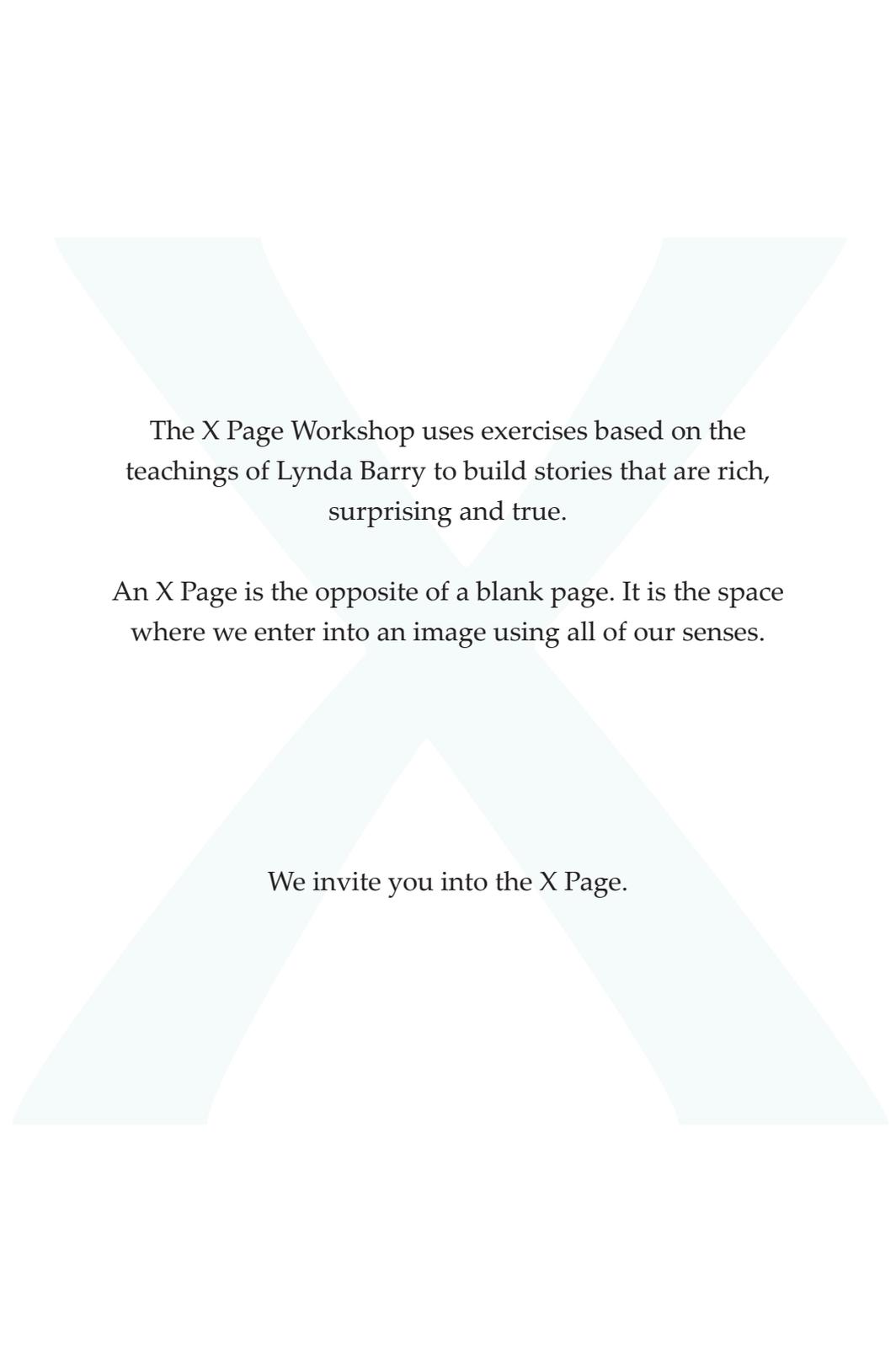


# LITTLE THINGS

**7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Wednesday July 7, 2021**



The X Page Workshop uses exercises based on the teachings of Lynda Barry to build stories that are rich, surprising and true.

An X Page is the opposite of a blank page. It is the space where we enter into an image using all of our senses.

We invite you into the X Page.

# Program

## Welcome

The X Page Team

## Little Things

### PART 1: FATHERS

#### *My Super Hero* ~ Cynara Li

Cynara grew up in Beijing. After finishing her Master's in software engineering, she came alone to Canada and fell in love with this new world. Currently a Senior Software Developer at Shopify, she loves sports and the outdoors, and is proud of her dumpling-making skills.



#### *An English Guy* ~ Lina Alsafi

Lina was born in Iraq and worked there as a civil engineer. She has lived in Canada now for almost four years with her family and works part-time supervising and monitoring children in elementary school. Additionally, she does a lot of volunteering.



#### *Papa's Glasses* ~ Laetitia Dongmo

Laetitia is originally from Cameroon. She moved to Canada in 2013 at the age of 14. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Waterloo and is currently pursuing computer engineering technology at Algonquin College.



***Pardon My French* ~ Hiba ElMiari**

Hiba is a third-generation Palestinian refugee (originally from Akbara, Safad) from Lebanon. At work on an interdisciplinary project called Every Refugee is a Poem, she has been published in multiple literary journals including: *Textile, Ghassan Kanafani Anthology*, and *InsideWaterloo*.



***Socks* ~ Wafa Agha**

Wafa immigrated to Canada with her family from Abu Dhabi, UAE, in 2018. She has worked in insurance, corporate relations, and executive management support. She is currently an Executive Assistant with Ernst and Young. Wafa is fond of nature, reading, and photography.



***The Christmas Goat* ~ Scilla Owusu-Amoah**

Scilla was born in Ghana and moved to Canada at the age of 16. Since then, she has been dancing with people, travelling and working in community development. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University.



**PART 2: HOMELAND & FOOD**

***Late Night Cake* ~ Reema Alhamad**

"I'm a Syrian girl, 15 years old plus two years during the war and eight as a refugee. My childhood was 15 years of happiness where 24 hours was 24 hours. During the war each hour equalled a year of fear and grief. The eight years in the camp were a slow, empty time without colour or taste. Now, in Canada, I am hopeful an hour will be an hour again."



***Little Things* ~ Leman Koca**

Leman graduated from the Faculty of Islamic Theology in Turkey, where she taught for several years before moving to Zambia in 2015. In 2019, she immigrated to Canada. She is currently in the General Arts and Science Program at Conestoga College.



***Bundle of Love* ~ Aleya Hassan**

Originally from Syria, Aleya has a Bachelor's in Environmental Engineering. She has spent years working in education, most recently in the LINC program and with CARIZON. She is working on her Master's in Counselling and Psychology from Yorkville University.



***A Bouquet of Flowers from God* ~ Zohreh Mohammadkhani**

Zohreh was born and raised in Tehran, Iran, where she studied mechanical engineering. She immigrated to Canada with her spouse and two daughters in 2014. In 2020, she graduated from the Hearing Instrument Specialist Program at Conestoga College. Zohreh loves Persian literature and has a talent for Persian poetry.



**PART 3: REVOLUTION & CHANGE**

***Nunca más (Never Again)* ~ Cecilia Vizcaino**

From Buenos Aires, Argentina, Cecilia earned degrees in literature and editing, and worked in publishing. She came to Canada in 2001, became a wife, mom, Spanish teacher, translator and editor, library technician, Breastfeeding Buddy, and a storyteller. She works at the KPL.



***The Key Story* ~ Margit Bárdos**

Born in Hungary 85 years ago, Margit taught for 22 years. She studied sculpture with Graham Todd at McMaster University. Having lost her central vision to macular degeneration she now paints for pleasure. She loves horses, theatre, and hiking, and misses reading the most.



***My Education* ~ Maya Baltagi**

A Lebanese-Syrian, Maya was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She lived in Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Lebanon before settling in Canada in 2007. Maya recently returned to the work force after being a stay-at-home mom for a decade.



### ***The Factory* ~ Mandy Bao-Phuong Lam**

Mandy was born in Saigon and immigrated to Canada in 1983. She has a Master's in English from the University of Waterloo, where she has taught. She has worked in the tech sector for more than 18 years and currently works as a Strategic Communications Director at D2L Corporation.



### ***Nona Nona* ~ Nazmi Elkawash**

Nazmi was born in Derna, Libya, in 1987. There she earned a teaching certificate in chemistry and biology and worked as a teacher. She moved to Canada in 2014 with her husband, daughters and mother-in-law. She works as a teacher and program facilitator for children.



### ***Labour Day* ~ Batoul Kharbutli**

Originally from Syria, Batoul is an agriculture engineer but has taught math and science for 14 years. She came to Canada in 2018 with her family. A mother of four boys, her passion is education. She will return to her job as an administrator in a private school in August.



## **The X Page Workshop team**

**Carrie Snyder, Program Coordinator:** Carrie is the author of three books of fiction, including *Girl Runner*, which was nominated for the Roger's Trust Fiction Prize and *The Juliet Stories*, nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award. Carrie co-founded the X Page Workshop in 2019 with Lamees Al-Ethari.

**Tasneem Jamal, Writing Coach:** Tasneem Jamal was born in Uganda and immigrated to Canada in 1975. After more than a decade spent working as a journalist at a number of Canadian daily newspapers, she published her debut novel *Where the Air Is Sweet* in 2014. When not working on her fiction, she handles communications for the Waterloo-based peace research institute Project Ploughshares.

**Pam Patel, Performance Coach:** Actor Pam Patel is the artistic director of MT Space, Waterloo Region's first and only multicultural theatre company. A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University's music

program, Pam has acquired a special focus in improvisation, both music and physical theatre.

**Pamela Mulloy, Editor:** Pamela Mulloy is the editor of *The New Quarterly* and the creative director of the Wild Writers Literary Festival. Her debut novel *The Deserters* was published by Véhicule Press in April, 2018. She has lived in Poland, England and the United States and now lives in Kitchener, Ontario.

**Melissa Durrell, Vocal Coach:** Melissa Durrell is an insatiably curious news junkie and political wonk. Sharpening her journalism and storytelling skills as a CTV reporter, she is now the President of Durrell Communications, where she amplifies changemakers from tech firms to women's human rights organizations.

**Maha Eid, Assistant Program Co-ordinator:** Maha Eid is a Graduate Program Coordinator at the University of Waterloo. She was a research assistant at the University of Saskatchewan as part of a study on household food insecurity of Syrian refugees in Canada. Maha participated in the first X Page Workshop in 2019.

**Sumeyra Demirdoven Nurcan, Peer Mentor:** Sumeyra was born in Izmir, Turkey. She earned degrees in critical theatre and dramaturgy, worked as a drama teacher and presented cultural programs on the radio. She immigrated to Canada in 2016. Sumeyra participated in the first X Page Workshop in 2019.

**Anandi Carroll-Woolery, Editor & Mentor:** Anandi is an auditor with the Government of Canada. She is the host of *Your Region This Week* on Rogers TV, and a member of Toastmasters International. Anandi is a member of the local theatre troupe "Flex We Talent." She participated in the 2020 X Page Workshop.

**Emily Bednarz, Administrative Assistant:** Emily Bednarz joined *The New Quarterly* as Managing Editor in September 2018. She holds an MA in English from the University of Western Ontario and three-quarters of a PhD in Canadian Literature from Wilfrid Laurier University.

**Tarunima Mittal, Artist-in-Residence:** Tarunima is pursuing her MA in Child Study and Education at the University of Toronto. When she is not thinking and reading about children and education, she enjoys creating art that captures people and their personalities. She is inspired by stories and by beauty emerging in unexpected places.

The X Page Workshop is a community arts initiative that connects women who are immigrants or refugees with artists who assist and mentor them in writing and performing their own stories.

The X Page Workshop is supported by the following:



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