



Sunrise at Grey Havens Inn, Georgetown Island, Maine

Salt Lines Poetry Retreat

Grey Havens Inn
Georgetown Island, Maine

October 6-8, 2026

Our theme for this retreat is: Completion

Do you have a project—large or small—that has been asking for your attention, and needing to be completed? Bring it to Maine. Let's do this together: with clarity, elegance, conviction.

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*“This kind of open-ended time is the only luxury that really counts
and I feel stupendously rich to have it.”*

— May Sarton, Journal of a Solitude

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Dear Writer . . .

What if . . .

We met up for a restorative in-person gathering, designed to facilitate deep work and creative breakthroughs, poetic friendships, and a sense of spaciousness around your inner life?

Find Your Momentum, Break Through

An artist retreat is a time and place to find your momentum. Even a short, focused stint in a thoughtful setting, with a seasoned guide, can lead to meaningful insights and significant progress. During our stay at the historic Grey Havens Inn in mid-coast Maine, we will share transformative conversations, warm community, renewing encounters with nature, and generous meals. We will be surrounded by inspiration and a reassuring sense of *being in it together*. All of this will imbue your work with richness and energy. All of this will fill your well and set you on an auspicious path.

If you've enjoyed how I shape space and guide the creative process in any other format, I can't wait to show you what's possible when we meet up on Georgetown Island, surrounded by Maine's majestic coast, painterly skies, and late autumn color. There will be good food, laughter, interesting conversation, sea breezes, hugs, new writing, solo time, deep reflection, and more . . .



*“a small, happy society
of souls who are gentle and do no harm”
—Kate Barnes, “In the Pasture”*

Maine of the Imagination

We all have a romantic idea of Maine, even those of us who live here, because it is, genuinely, a place that steals your heart and puts it back together in a new configuration. Before I moved here in 2019, I referred to it as “Maine of the Imagination,” and I still do. I fell in love with my husband and married him here, on a wide sand beach just up the coast from where we now live. I built a wood studio at the back of our property where I now work and write and teach here, on the southern seacoast. It has been good to me and my poems. My poet’s heart.

Tuning Inward

The Salt Lines Poetry Retreat will take place on the wild, rocky coast at an historic inn on Georgetown Island. I chose the place because it will be sympathetic to our purpose. While high speed wifi is available at the inn, cell service may be spotty, depending on your provider. There are no televisions in the rooms or restaurant. What’s truly riveting is the view of the Atlantic Ocean and nearshore islands; waking to the sound of shore birds; sitting on the wrap around porch, and the salty good air. As part of this experience, I will be inviting each participant to have a minimalist relationship with their phone, devices, and the internet. It’s optional but encouraged to unplug, at least for long periods, so as to use this time intentionally, for the betterment of your work and your inner space. In any case, our common spaces will be designated for “tuning in” rather than “tuning out.”

Accommodations

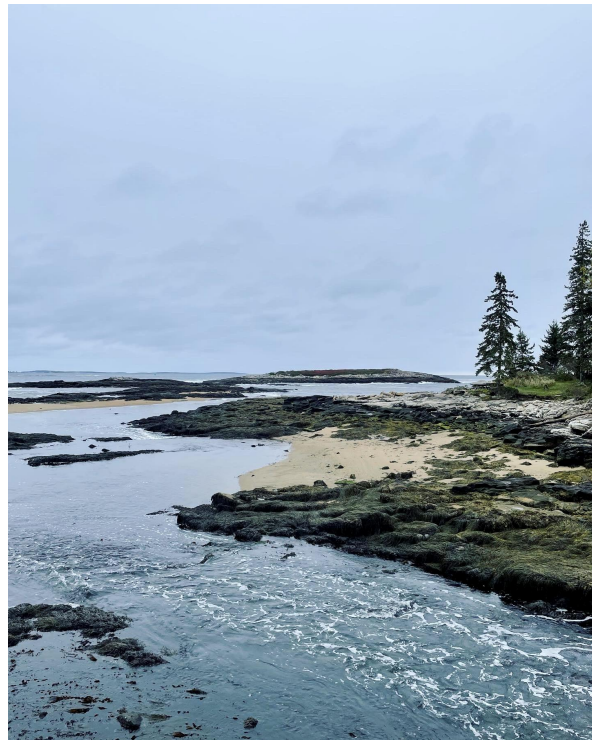
A historic Maine waterfront hotel, Grey Havens Inn overlooks the craggy North Atlantic coast. Located on an island—that you can drive to—it is noticeably quiet, especially in the off-season, and the skies are gorgeously dark at night. We will enjoy the autumn colors and the misty ambiance of Maine, which always makes me want to tuck into a corner to read and write. A beautiful open stairway takes you up to the second and third floors, where guest rooms are located, all with private bathrooms; some also have tubs (first come, first served). There is no elevator. The four turret rooms on the corners of the building are truly romantic with 270-degree panoramic ocean views. The largest room, the Sunrise Suite, has its own private deck overlooking the ocean. All rooms have either full or partial views of the ocean, providing some of the best oceanfront lodging in Maine. The rooms are pleasantly simple and well maintained, and have preserved some of the original architectural details from when the inn was first built. Some have easy chairs, however there are no desks, so please pack rigid notebooks and I will bring lap desks for you to borrow. I write in bed, and you can too! We will have access to the tables in the dining room for much of each day, which provides a pleasant place to work as well. Daily housekeeping will be provided.

Rooms are first come, first served, so I urge you to act decisively, by reaching out, so that I can save your place in the retreat. If you want to come with a writing buddy, and share a room, the Reid Room has two beds.

Meals

[BLUE restaurant](#) is nestled within the inn, evoking the warmth and charm of old, coastal Maine. Using only the finest, local ingredients, Chef Esau Crosby prepares delicious North Atlantic cuisine. Folks travel from miles around to eat at BLUE.

I will reach out in September about dietary needs. If you are concerned about this part of the experience, please reach out immediately to discuss this with me. I want you to feel comfortable and confident in this aspect of the experience. I don't want to make promises we can't keep, especially if you are dealing with a complicated or medically risky food allergy or illness. Thank you for your understanding.



“Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder.”

— E.B. White

Your Room

Rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Preview the room options [here](#). Let me know your preference after you're registered for the retreat.

Getting to Grey Havens Inn, Georgetown Island:

[Grey Havens](#) is a 1 hour scenic drive from Portland, Maine, which has an airport and train station and bus connections to other parts of New England. I can help folks to coordinate ride-sharing from Portland if they would like, however I will not be able to collect you as I will already be at the inn, preparing for your arrival. These logistics will be handled in September, after I've confirmed our cohort, and taken my August break. You will receive a survey in early August, to help me understand your needs.

Arrivals and Departures:

This retreat will formally begin on October 6 with an evening meal at BLUE Restaurant, located inside the inn. Please try to arrive at the inn between 3 and 7 pm that day.

We are required to check-out of our rooms by 11 am on October 8th. I recommend treating that final morning as an opportunity to review the progress you've made with your work, rather than rushing away. Breakfast will be served as usual in the dining room before we go.

FAQ:

Who else will be at this retreat?

I am inviting individuals who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to their creative work and have spent time with me in *A Body of Work*, *A Secret Life*, *Slim Volumes*, *Infinite Imagination*, *Casual Union of Working Poets* or another setting, such that we know we resonate with one another's energy and ethos. We will be among our kind and our conversations and interactions are certain to be enlivening, nourishing, and good. I am inviting folks whom I believe will both benefit and contribute to this special gathering.

Can I bring my partner?

This retreat is reserved for writers in the Casual Union of Working Poets or wider Poetry Forge community.

Can I bring my writing buddy/friend?

One of the inn's rooms has a second bed in it, which means that if you want to bunk with a Poetry Forge friend or other writing buddy, this is an option. Get in touch to coordinate the details.

Can you help me prepare documentation for reimbursement from Professional Development funds from my university/college/employer?

Yes, happily. I can do this for any of my offerings.

What should I bring to Maine?

One of the lessons I've taken from working for short but focused periods at other artist retreats and residencies, is that it has been most powerful for me to choose one project or area to focus on during my experience, while always leaving room for the unexpected. Is there any reading you'd especially like to do? Bring that, too. If what you really need to do is think, reflect, and take notes toward an idea that has lived in the imaginal, but has not yet materialized, this is the place to do that sort of thing as well. Or maybe you really need to rest, eat well, and be among other artists and writers. A particularly exciting goal might be to bring along all recent writings, to see if you can give them shape during these sacrosanct days.

Other questions:

Contact: Holly@poetryforge.us

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"I don't know whether the inward work is achieving something or whether it is simply the autumn light, but I begin to see my way again, which means to resume myself.

This morning two miracles took place."

—May Sarton, Journal of a Solitude

Poetry Forge