

# Jumpstart creativity at annual writing boot camp

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) welcomes writers of all levels and genres to join “Writers on the River” for another exciting year of literary classes and events.

Get down to the brass tacks of creative writing with this fun workshop designed to bring out the Navy Seal writer in you! The 2018 Writing Boot Camp will take place on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the FRAA Art Center classroom on 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town.

Offered just once a year, this experiential Writing Boot Camp will help writers define their goals for the New Year; unleash their true voice within; develop a regular writing practice with tools to fuel their creativity; empower their writing with simple techniques; get back into the writing flow and stay there all year, with proven strategies for success.

Boot Camp includes plenty of writing drills, so be prepared to drop and write 20 sentences!

No two workshops are ever alike, so it offers a great refresher for prior at-



PHOTOS COURTESY CATHERINE ROURKE

**Award-winning journalist Catherine Rourke stands at the head of the class during a Writers on the River seminar. The next class, Jan. 20, will be a “boot camp” inspired two-hours of writing instruction.**

tendees to flex their creative muscles. Grab your pen and ditty bag and enlist now.

Classes fill up quickly; pre-registration is suggested. Cost: \$20 FRAA members, \$25 non-members, payable at the door. To register, call Catherine at 541-708-2120 or e-mail [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com).

Visit [www.fraaoregon.org/](http://www.fraaoregon.org/) for more information.

Meet your drill sergeant: FRAA creative writing instructor Catherine J. Rourke is an award-winning journalist, columnist, author and editor educated at the City University of New York, the University of Oxford/England and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. With more than 30 years’ experience as a staff editor and writer for newspapers, magazines and major publishers, she now serves as a book editor for Amazon in print and digital formats.

The author of “Forgive Us Our Press Passes — Confessions of a Modern-Day Muckraker,” Rourke is the recipient of a 2017 National First Place press award for her columns in the Siuslaw News.

## SOUTH COAST FOLK SOCIETY OFFERS DANCE

The South Coast Folk Society will host a free traditional dance class every Monday for two hours starting at 7 p.m. at the North Bend Housing Authority, 1700 Monroe St.

The public is welcome. This is a beginner’s level class, and a friendly social gathering. No previous dance experience is required. All ages and abilities can enjoy dancing to the live music provided by area musicians.

The dances will be taught, and no part-

ner is needed.

The emphasis will be on easy tradition dances from America and around the world. These include squares and circles, line dances and set dances, folk dances and ballroom. Many of the dances will be accompanied by live music, and musicians are invited to come and join in.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, email [southcoastfolksociety@gmail.com](mailto:southcoastfolksociety@gmail.com) or call Paul at 541-404-8267.

## Journey to ‘Paris’ to support animals

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 27, for “Paws in Paris,” a premier event to benefit the Oregon Coast Humane Society. The Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., doors open at 3 p.m. for an afternoon of a taste of Paris with chocolate, wine and art.

When you arrive, imagine hearing traditional café music, indulging in wine and numerous chocolate treats from a chocolate fountain. Stroll through the famous Montmartre and watch renowned painter Michael F. Wood paint animal portraits. One, valued at \$3,000, will go on auction. As you move through the streets, you will be transported to the Eiffel Tower for a vin-

tage photo op. On to the stalls of the Marché — Paris’ famous flea market, where you will be able to purchase items and participate in a silent auction bidding. A live auction will feature bigger items.

Tickets are available in advance for \$25, or for \$27 at the door.

For more information, visit [eventcenter.org](http://eventcenter.org) or call 541-997-1994.

Submit events by the 15th:

[PRESSRELEASES@](mailto:PRESSRELEASES@)

[THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](http://THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM)

## Florence Area

### DINING

- 1. 1285 RESTOBAR**  
1285 Bay Street  
Florence, OR  
(541) 902-8338  
[www.1285restobar.com](http://www.1285restobar.com)
- 2. A&W FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
17th & Hwy. 101  
Florence, OR  
(541) 997-8124
- 3. SURFSIDE RESTAURANT AT DRIFTWOOD SHORES RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
88416 1st Avenue  
Florence, OR  
(541) 997-8263  
1-800-422-5091
- 4. INTERNATIONAL C-FOOD MARKET**  
1498 Bay Street  
Old Town Florence  
(541) 997-9646
- 5. The Grill & Lounge at Sandpines**  
1201 35th Street at Kingwood, Florence  
Highway 101 & 35 St.  
541-997-4623
- 6. Bridgewater Fish House and Zebra Bar**  
1297 Bay Street  
Old Town Florence  
541-997-1133  
[bridgewaterfishhouse.com](http://bridgewaterfishhouse.com)

### LODGING

- A. DRIFTWOOD SHORES RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
88416 1ST AVENUE  
FLORENCE, OR.  
541-997-8263  
1-800-422-5091
- B. OLD TOWN INN**  
170 HWY. 101  
FLORENCE, OR  
800 587-5879  
[www.old-town-inn.com](http://www.old-town-inn.com)
- C. RIVERHOUSE INN**  
1202 BAY STREET  
FLORENCE, OR  
888 824-2752  
[www.riverhouseflorence.com](http://www.riverhouseflorence.com)