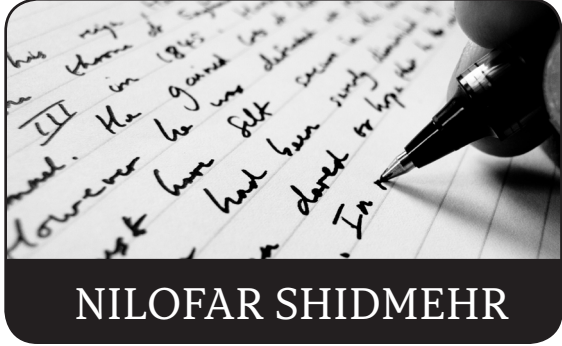


Richmond's 2017

Writer •!n• Residence



Richmond's sixth Writer-in-Residence, Dr. Nilofar Shidmehr, is a BC Book Prize-nominated poet and instructor at Simon Fraser University. As both an immigrant and bilingual writer, Nilofar is passionate about working with people from different cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds to help them pursue their dreams of writing. During her residency, she will focus on encouraging participants to share their life stories from multiculturalist perspectives.

Nilofar's books include *Shirin and Salt Man* (nominated for a BC Book Prize in 2009), *Between Lives, Two Nilofars: Before and After Migration* (Persian Edition), *In the Garden of Exile* (Persian Edition), *A City, A Woman* (Persian Edition). Her poetry and fiction have been featured in many Canadian and Iranian literary magazines and websites, including: *The New Quarterly*, *Room*, *Descant* and *Zaman*. She is also the Farsi translator of Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

She recently completed a collection of short stories entitled *Divided Loyalties* and a novella entitled *Green Intervals*. Currently, she is working on a novel that reflects the lives of Iranian immigrants living in Vancouver. Nilofar is represented by Morty Mint of the Mint Literary Agency.

Free Events

Residency Launch:
Meet Nilofar Shidmehr

culture days

CREATE, PARTICIPATE & SHARE
September 29, 30 & October 1, 2017

Saturday, Sept. 30 • 2:00–4:00 pm
Richmond Public Library – Brighthouse Branch
Living Room, 1st floor
Course #2040338

Meet Richmond's sixth Writer-in-Residence, acclaimed writer Nilofar Shidmehr. Enjoy a short reading by the author, learn about her writing career, and the range of free, public programs that she will present during her two-month residency in the Minoru precinct. This event is part of Culture Days and will be followed by a reception by light refreshments.

Seating is limited; register by September 28.

Final Celebration

Saturday, Nov. 25 • 2:00–4:00 pm
Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall
Course #2040638

Program participants and guests are invited to a celebratory performance event featuring works created by local participants during Nilofar's residency. The presentation will be followed by a short reception with light refreshments.

Seating is limited; register by November 23.

Unique opportunities to engage with professional author and poet, Nilofar Shidmehr. Registration is now open! Register at 604-276-4300 or richmond.ca/register

Free Writing Workshops

Multicultural Postcard Stories
for Youth

Saturday, Oct. 14 • 1:30–3:30 pm
Richmond Public Library – Brighthouse Branch
Community Place, 2nd floor
Course # 2040438

Learn how to write an intriguing short story – short enough to fit on the back of a postcard! Participants should come to the workshop with an idea for a story about their experiences living in Canada and a mailing address of someone that they would like to share their story with. Postcards will be provided and exhibited at the Writer-in-Residence Final Celebration on November 25 before they are mailed out. All postcards and postage will be provided. ESL students are encouraged to participate.

Youth aged 11–17. Maximum 20 participants.

Multicultural Life Stories

Saturday, October 14 • 10:30 am–12:30 pm
Richmond Public Library – Brighthouse Branch
Community Place, 2nd floor
Course # 2040488

Let's write about our life in Canada. One thing of the things that makes Canada multicultural is our diverse life stories. Whether you are a first or second generation immigrant or were born in Canada, this workshop will provide you with an opportunity to create an outline of your life story. Participants are encouraged to bring few photographs that reflect major personal events or turning points in their lives. Participants will develop outlines that can be used towards writing a memoir or autobiography. ESL students are encouraged to participate.

For 18+ years. Maximum 20 participants.

Write Yourself into a Fictional
Character in a Story

Monday, Oct. 23, Monday, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6
1:30–3:30 pm
Sessions 1 & 2: Minoru Place Activity Centre, M1
Session 3: Richmond Cultural Centre Boardroom
Course # 2040588.

Become the star of your own short story. An important part of the dramatization process is creating a character. In this three-part workshop, participants will have the chance to dramatize their lives and give them a narrative shape. Participants will have the chance to read their stories on camera at the Richmond Media Lab. The collection of stories will be published into a printed chapbook and short videos will be screened as part of the Writer-in-Residence Final Celebration on November 25.

For 55+ years. Maximum 15 participants.

Mentorship Opportunities

Manuscript Consultations

Saturdays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21
12:00–4:00 pm • 45-minute consultations
Submission deadline: September 25

Whether you are an aspiring or well-seasoned author, feedback from a professional author is invaluable. Eight lucky local writers will be randomly selected for one-on-one manuscript consultations with Nilofar Shidmehr.

Interested writers are invited to submit a sample of their writing (max 1000 words) via email to writerinresidence@yourlibrary.ca by **September 25**.

All Activities are FREE! Pre-Registration is required.
Details at richmond.ca/artists/writerinresidence

Resources for Writers

Nilofar's Recommendations

These and other books can be found in the Richmond Public Library's catalogue under **RPL Writer in Residence 2017**.

Nilofar's Books in English

- *Between Lives*, Oolichan Books, 2014
- *Shirin and Salt Man: A Novella in Verse*, Oolichan Books, 2009

Nilofar's Books in Farsi

- *A City, A Woman*, 2017
- *Two Nilofars: Before and After Migration*, 2015
- *In the Garden of Exile*, 2014

Nilofar's Recently Completed / Unpublished Books

- *Green Intervals* (novella)
- *Divided Loyalties* (a collection of short fiction)

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry

- *All My Puny Sorrow*, Miriam Toews, 2014
- *All That Matters*, Wayson Choy, 2004
- *Cockroach*, Rawi Hage, 2008
- *Dream/arteries*, Phinder Dulai, 2014
- *Everything Was Good-Bye*, Gurjinder Basran, 2013
- *Fifteen Dogs* by André Alexis, 2015
- *Gifted*, Ikita Lalwani, 2007
- *Ilustrado*, Miguel Syjuco, 2010
- *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel, 2001
- *Made in British Columbia: Eight Ways of Making Culture*, Maria Tippett, 2015
- *Obasan*, Joy Kogawa, 1994

Helpful Guides Fiction/Creative Non-Fiction

- *A Self Made of Words*, Carl H. Klaus, 2013
- *Crafting Personal Essays*, Dinty W. Moore, 2010
- *I'll Tell You Mine: Thirty Years of Essays from the IOWA Nonfiction Writing Program*, edited by Hope Edelman and Bobin Hemley, 2015
- *Teaching the Short story*, Ailsa Cox, 2011
- *The Elements of Story: Field Notes on NonFiction Writing*, Francis Flaherty, 2009
- *You can't Make This Stuff Up: The Complete Guide to Writing Creative Nonfiction*, Gutkind Lee, 2012

Online Resources

- Canada Council for the Arts • canadacouncil.ca
- British Columbia Arts Council • bcartscouncil.ca
- Writers' Union of Canada • writersunion.ca
- Federation of BC Writers • bcwriters.ca
- League of Canadian Poets • poets.ca
- Writers to Authors • writerstoauthors.com

Minoru Place Activity Centre

Minoru Amateur Writers – 55+

Join this group of avid readers and writers and share works and ideas to improve writing skills in a supportive environment.

Meetings take place on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Minoru Place Activity Centre Facility. Pass required. Free.

Other Author Events

Author Talk with Kate Bird Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 7:00 – 8:00pm Richmond Public Library - Brighthouse Branch

Meet Kate Bird, celebrated author of *Vancouver in the Seventies* (2016) and *City On Edge: A Rebellious Century of Vancouver Protests, Riots* (2017).

Author Talk with Julia Lin Friday, November 17, 2017, 7:30 – 9:00pm Richmond Public Library – Brighthouse Branch

Local author, Julia Lin will speak on topics related to her new biography, *Shadows of the Crimson Sun* (2017) on the life of Dr. Charles Yang, a retired obstetrician/gynaecologist who practiced in Richmond for three decades.

Richmond's 2017

Writer •!n• Residence

The City of Richmond is pleased to welcome Nilofar Shidmehr as Writer-in-Residence at the Minoru Place Activity Centre, Richmond Media Lab and Richmond Public Library.

Over the course of two months, Nilofar will provide advice to emerging writers through one-on-one consultations, as well as lead public interactive workshops.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear all about them at the special Residency Launch Event on Saturday, September 30. Registration for workshops starts the next day!

richmond.ca/writerinresidence



me•dia lab



Richmond's 2017

Writer •!n• Residence



Nilofar Shidmehr

A series of free events, workshops and mentorship opportunities with professional author and poet,

Nilofar Shidmehr

October & November 2017

Minoru Place Activity Centre
7660 Minoru Gate

Richmond Media Lab
Richmond Public Library
7700 Minoru Gate

Details at richmond.ca/writerinresidence

