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The 2024 Penang Writers Workshops is a series of six writing workshops + a writing retreat organised for emerging writers in Penang and the northern region of Peninsular Malaysia. The weekly workshops aim to equip writers with the skills and confidence to write creatively in both standard and Malaysian English—plus share their works with the public.

The workshops will culminate in a public reading session of selected work produced (one per participant) and published in a commemorative zine. Participants from or based in Penang are invited to submit their pieces to our annual NutMag zine.

Quick Details:

Workshops: 20 April to 25 May 2024
Saturdays, 1pm – 5pm

Retreat: 1 to 3 June 2024 (Saturday to Monday*)

Showcase: 6 July 2024

Workshop Venue: 123 Jalan Macalister, George Town, Penang

*YDPA's birthday (public Holiday)

Fee:

Full course: RM800 (50% off for Society members)

Individual workshops: RM100 per workshop (50% off for Society members)

Registration: <https://forms.gle/kX3p23NEchX7IiAB7>

Workshop structure:

1 pm-3pm: Workshop session

3pm – 5pm: Critique

Course Outline:

- **20 April—Who's telling the story?** First person? Second person? Third person? Who's actually telling this story? In this session, we'll look at voice and point of view and how that makes a difference in how a story is told.
- **27 April—Jelajah Harmoni: What's there to write about Penang?** Delve into multifaceted interpretations of 'harmony' with Harmonico. Jelajah Harmoni is an experiential journey through the Street of Harmony, Seberang Jaya.
- **4 May—Writing Believable Settings.** Have you ever been transported to a different world when reading a story? We'll discuss how a strong setting makes a story believable and authentic, and how the specificities of a place can open up wider, more universal themes. Participants can expect to partake in short writing exercises to learn how to set the mood, tone and atmosphere of their story simply by using their words.
- **11 May—Working with time and tenses.** Does it make a difference if you're writing past tense? Or in the present tense? Is there a future tense we can write in? And what do you do if you have a piece of flashback that's really crucial and needs to ... fit in somewhere? Time doesn't always flow one way in a story. In this session, we look at that pesky thing called "tenses" and why it's important.
- **18 May—Structuring your stories.** For every story idea, there are a thousand ways to tell the story—but this freedom can be paralyzing. How do we decide the shape of our narrative? Where do we begin, when should we end, and how do we keep people reading in between? In this session, we'll learn to apply our own reader's intuition to think about structure. We'll consider aspects like plot, pacing, and payoff, and see how they work across a story arc, a metaphor, or even a single line.
- **25 May—Performing your work.** You've written the thing, but how do you actually read the thing aloud? Without people falling asleep? By this time you should have between 1 to 4 completed pieces, so we'll pick one and go through it carefully to discover how to best read it to your family, friends, and the general public.

Writer's Retreat (1-3 June):

- This year's retreat focuses on editing and critiquing the work selected for the showcase. It will include a practical hands-on workshop on how to self-edit your work.

INSTRUCTORS



Anna Tan writes fantasy stories and fairy tales, and has short stories included in various anthologies. She helps people publish books at Teaspoon Publishing, which includes yelling at HTML for epub reasons.

She has an MA in Creative Writing: The Novel from Brunel University London and is interested in Malay/Nusantara and Chinese legends and folklore in exploring the intersection of language, culture, and faith. She can be found tweeting as @natzers and forgetting to update annatp.com.



Wan Phing Lim was born to Malaysian parents in 1986 in Butterworth, Penang. Her short stories have appeared in literary magazines and anthologies in UK, USA, Canada, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia. She lives in Penang and *Two Figures in a Car* is her first short story collection.

Wan Phing is the current fiction editor at NutMag



Yee Heng Yeh is a writer and Mandarin-to-English translator. His poetry has been featured in The KITA! Podcast, *adda*, *Malaysian Millennial Voices*, and *Strange Horizons*, while his translations of poetry have been published in *Mantis* and *Nashville Review*. His story "Cockroach", first published in *Imprints: Chevening Writers Series 2021*, also appeared in *Guernica*. You can find him on Twitter at @HengYeh42.

Heng Yeh is the current poetry editor at NutMag.

MYWRITERS



Malaysian Writers Society (Persatuan Penulis Malaysia) is a society for writers hailing from Malaysia (Malaysian Citizens, PRs & Expats) spanning across genres, languages, mediums, functions and experience levels.

MYWriters is an inclusive and non-profit initiative, providing a platform for Malaysian writers that transcends genre, language, function, medium, and experience levels. Our members include published and emerging writers.

MYWriters Penang

Our goal at MYWriters Penang has always been to help promote Penang-based writers, both published and unpublished. We do this by creating communities where writers can learn from each other—such as the weekly write-ins and monthly critiques—and giving writers platforms to showcase their works, such as our Readings showcases and our annual zine, NutMag.

WORKSHOP VENUE SPONSOR



AHAM Asset Management Berhad (“AHAM Capital”) is an independently-managed, institutionally-owned asset management firm. Since its formation in 2001, AHAM Capital has served the wealth needs of corporates, institutions, pension funds, government-linked companies, high net worth individuals and the mass affluent.

AIIMAN Asset Management Sdn. Bhd. (“AIIMAN”) is the wholly owned Shariah investment arm of AHAM Capital. Incorporated in 2008, AIIMAN manages assets for pension funds, institutions, corporates, high net worth and mass affluent individuals. Through an end-to-end Shariah platform, AIIMAN focuses on delivering exceptional and innovative Shariah investment solutions spanning equities and sukuk.

OUR PARTNERS



George Town Literary Festival (GTLF) is Malaysia’s largest international literary festival. It is held annually in the UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town, Penang.



Dabble Dabble Jer Collective is an arts production team based in Penang, Malaysia. We are especially interested in exploring themes of identity, heritage, and sociocultural constructs with artists, musicians, performers, dancers, and creatives, regardless of background or creed.