



50 Years and Looking Forward

BCA BxWritersCenter
bronxarts.org

Devoted to creating and supporting Bronx voices, readers and writers.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phil Cardone x33
phil@bronxarts.org
Maria Romano x21
bronxwriters@bronxarts.org
718-931-9500
www.bronxarts.org

In Progress: A Writer's Journey
A Free Bronx Writers Center Workshop
Future Home of the Bronx Council on the Arts, 2700 East Tremont Avenue
Monday, February 25, 2013 6:30-8:30pm

(Bronx, NY – February 13, 2013) Presented by the Bronx Council on the Arts' Bronx Writers Center, ***In Progress: A Writer's Journey***, a free, hands-on workshop, is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 2013, 6:30-8:30pm at the future home of the Bronx Council on the Arts (2700 E Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461, in the Westchester Square section of the Bronx.) Admission is free and all are welcome. Reserve your seat at <http://bronxwriters2252013.eventbrite.com/>. *In Progress* is a series of free monthly events for writers and readers at the future headquarters of the Bronx Council on the Arts in Westchester Square.

This two-hour workshop begins at **6:30pm** with a half-hour of **Speed Writing**. Each BWC workshop starts with a short writing exercise and an opportunity to meet and share with your fellow writers. From **7:00-8:30pm: Andrew Goldstein**, writer of *The Bookie's Son*, a novel set in the Bronx, shares his story and insights into the journey from "secret" writer to published novelist. A Q & A and book signing will follow.



Andrew Goldstein

In 1958, Andrew Goldstein was 10 years old and he started taking bets for his father, a bookie in the Bronx. When he was 25 he was an organic orange and olive farmer in California when his first book was published. He started writing *The Bookie's Son*. Five years later he was still working on the novel when he froze a Zamboni to the ice in the middle of a hockey game. He was fired. Needing an income, he read the book, *Match Play and the Spin of The Ball* and taught himself tennis. Not a great player but a good teacher he became the head tennis pro at a tennis club in the Berkshires and kept writing in-between lessons. When he was 32 his first child was born and he needed money again so he gave up writing and became a custom builder. Two decades later he was named the National Custom Builder of the Year. Kids grown, he went back to writing. "Hey, I like this," he said. He took writing workshops at Grub Street and in 2012 after 40 on and off years of writing *The Bookie's Son*, it was published by SixOneSeven Books. Maria Romano, Director of the Bronx Writers Center, writer and teacher, will host this workshop.

Maria Romano is the Director of the Bronx Writers Center. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Yale University and a Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the New School. She is a creative writing teacher at Fordham University's Science and Technology Entry Program for middle and high school students and a volunteer at the nationally recognized non-profit, Girls Write Now. She has also worked as an Academic Director for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions and as a Sales and Production Manager at Avon Books (now part of Harper Collins.) A Bronx-bred, award-winning writer of short stories, essays, she is currently working on a novel.

The Bronx Writers Center's 2013 workshop series, *In Progress*, is posted on BCA's website at www.bronxarts.org. For additional information on this workshop or other events presented by the Bronx Writers Center, call 718-931-9500 x21, e-mail bronxwriters@bronxarts.org, or visit the Bronx Writers Center's web pages at www.bronxarts.org.

The Bronx Writers Center supports and develops the appetite for writing and reading in the Bronx. The BWC searches for and promotes new voices and audiences and engages the community in literary and literacy programs. **Bronx Council on the Arts** is celebrating 50 years as a private, non-profit membership organization that is the official cultural agency of Bronx County. Recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization in providing cultural services and arts programs, BCA serves a multicultural constituency of almost 1.4 million residents. BCA provides an array of services to 5,000 artists and more than 250 arts and community-based organizations.

The Bronx Writers Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Robert A. Bowne Foundation, Arts MidWest, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the New York State Council on the Arts' Literature Program, NYC Council Member James Vacca, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Dept. of Small Business Services-Ave NYC, the Scherman Foundation, the Lambert Fund of the Tides Foundation, and the Westchester Square Branch of the New York Public Library.

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Bronx Writers Center • BxCulturalCard • Longwood Art Gallery • bronxarts.org

1738 Hone Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461

718.931.9500 • Fax: 718.409.6445 • info@bronxarts.org