

HELENE SILVERBLANK-FORST
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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Master of Liberal Arts (ALM) in Extension School, field of Creative Writing and Literature, 2025

Dean's List Academic Achievement Award, 2025

Thesis Proposal Research Paper: "*Propelling a Screenplay Forward: How Character Arcs Work in Conjunction with Structure*"

Thesis: The feature screenplay, *Behind the Hedges*, a romantic thriller with a high-society criminal twist.

Advisors: Dr. Talaya Delaney and Dr. Susan Steinberg

Dowling College, Oakdale, NY

Master of Science - Special Education, 1996

Graduated with Honors – Summa Cum Laude

Major: Special Education

Minor: Reading

State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, 1977

Major: English

Minor: Science, Theater, Music

Graduated with Honors – Summa Cum Laude

State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY

Bachelor of Arts, 1973

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: English

Graduated with Honors: Magna Cum Laude

CONTINUING EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Landmark School Outreach, Prides Crossing, MA

15-hour online professional development seminar, 2018

"Supporting Students' Reading: Phonemic Awareness to Comprehension"

The Center for Effective Reading Instruction, 2018

Subsidiary of The International Dyslexia Association

Professional Provider for Reading/Writing Instruction and Evaluation Testing

Certification: Structured Literacy Classroom Teacher

Peconic Teacher Center, Southampton, NY

20-hour course, 2004

“Reflective Practices – Teacher as Reader”

East Hampton Middle School, East Hampton, NY

3-day in-service workshop on Literature Circles with Anita Cody, 2004

Block Teaching and Curriculum ELA Development

The Learning Disabilities Network, Hingham, MA

Sedita Study Skills Course with Joan Sedita, 2001

“Landmark School’s Master Notebook System”

Long Island University

Southampton College, Southampton, NY

EDU 611 – Case Study in Reading, 1998

EDU 659 – Assessment Techniques/Reading, 1998

EDU 653 – Reading Workshop, 1998

EDU 599 – Dyslexia, 1993

THE 204 – Theater Workshop, 1982

THE 205 – Theater Workshop Tech, 1982

EDU 613A – Workshop in New Experiences in Children’s Literature, 1976

Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, New York, NY

10-Hour Course Given by the Fellows of the Orton-Gillingham Academy, 1998

The Landmark School, Prides Crossing, MA

Observed 115 hours of classes and 1-to-1 tutorials, 1991

Participated in a 1-day workshop: "Study Skills for Independent Learning"

Participated in a 1-day workshop: "Children with Language Disorders"

Curry College, Milton, MA

CCL 212 (14 hours) Project Read – Phonology Grades 1-4, 1991

CCL 213 (14 hours) Project Read Grades 5-Adult, 1991

CERTIFICATIONS

Permanent NYS Certifications: Nursery, Kindergarten, Grades 1-6, Secondary English 7-12, Special Education, Reading

Awarded the title of Certified Structured Literacy Teacher (C-SLT) from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CER ID 182052), 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Multi-Sensory, Explicit, Language-Based Instruction; Orton-Gillingham training from: Project Read, The Landmark School, The Let's Read Program, The Wilson Reading Program, Lindamood-Bell, Preventing Academic Failure/Merrill Linguistic Reading Program; The Windward School; Learning/Remediation Specialist: Organizational, Notetaking, and Study Skills (trained at Landmark School, North Campus); Mastery Learning; Team Teaching; Literature Circles, Thematic Instruction, Multi-Age Groupings; Reading/Writing Workshop Portfolio Assessment; Standardized Testing Evaluations: (*Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement*, *Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests*, *Oral Gray Reading Test*); College English, Creative Writing, and Screenwriting Coach

PUBLICATIONS

Behind the Hedges, Feature Screenplay, 2025
Published by ProQuest for Harvard University

Stoked – 1969, YA novel, 2016
CreateSpace.com

The Journey of Hannah Woods, YA debut novel, 2013
CreateSpace.com

AWARDS

Behind the Hedges, a feature screenplay
Award-Winning Quarterfinalist in the Emerging Screenwriting Drama Screenwriters Competition 2025
Creative World Awards Preliminary Finalist 2025
Award-Winning Semifinalist in the 2025 Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition

The Rebels Roar, a feature screenplay
Award-Winning Quarterfinalist in the 2023 Creative Screenwriting Unique Voices Screenplay Competition

Woman of Distinction Award Nomination, 2000

Awarded by Senator Kenneth La Valle for recognition of noteworthy achievements in environmental activism

WORK EXPERIENCE

Forst and Silverblank, Inc., East Hampton, NY

Senior Partner, 1979 to Present

Residential Building Corporation

Systems Development (Computer, Accounting, Estimating, Scheduling)

OSHA Coordinator & Trainer

General Administrative Duties (Advertising, Personnel Management, Dealings with Bankers, Attorneys, Accountants, Budget Preparations and Forecasts)

Independent Private Tutoring Practice, East Hampton, NY

Personalized 1-to-1 Tutorials – In Person/Remote, 1979 to Present

Elementary through College Age Students

Areas of Instruction: Reading; Writing/Spelling; Keyboarding; Penmanship; Language Arts; English; Literature; Organization, Note Taking, and Study Skills; Creative Writing and Screenwriting Coach; College Application Essays; Specializing in working with students with dyslexia.

East Hampton Unified School District, East Hampton Middle School, East Hampton, NY

Reading Specialist for Grades 5 – 8, 2004-2006

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Coordinator in the English Language Arts (ELA) Department

Conducted in-school pre and post testing program using standardized tests: “*The Woodcock Mastery of Reading*” and “*The Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement*”

Incorporated Materials from: The Wilson Reading Program, Project Read, The Master Notebook System from The Landmark School, and Preventing Academic Failure from The Windward School.

Hampton Day School, Bridgehampton, NY

Core classroom teacher - 3rd/4th combined grades, 2001-2002

The Pioneer School, Bridgehampton, NY

Founder & Director, 1999-2001

Chartered by the New York State University Board of Regents, 1992

The school, modeled after The Landmark School in Prides Crossing, MA, educated students with dyslexia and language-based disabilities

Issued 501(c)(3) status-August 1998

School officially closed 2001 due to lack of funding

Montauk Public School District, Montauk, NY

English Teacher for Grades 6 – 8, 1996-1997

Leave Replacement

Advisor: The Junior Honor Society

Sag Harbor Public School, Sag Harbor, NY

High School English Teacher for Homebound Students, 1978-1980

Arrowhead School, Eugene, OR

Head Teacher for combined 2nd-4th Grade Alternative Class, 1977-1978

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Organic gardening, tai chi, hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, cooking, Knicks fan

COMMUNITY SERVICE

East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue, East Hampton, NY

Chairperson of Public Relations – Wrote Articles and Press Releases for all local newspapers, 2014-2019
Served as Lieutenant for Auxiliary Squad, 2016-2018

Co-chaired Education Committee - Created Water Safety/Hands-Only CPR Power Point Presentations for the public and local schools

East Hampton Environmental Coalition

Active Member, 2015-2022

The Coalition is comprised of 20 independent environmental groups representing thousands of local citizens. Members work to preserve and improve the natural environment in East Hampton and provide guidance for the development of the municipal government's environmental policies.

Long Island Businesses for Responsible Energy, Inc. (LIBFRE), East Hampton, NY

Spearheaded and Co-chaired this 501 c 4 not-for-profit citizen's group, 2014-2022

The Organization's Mission – To halt PSEG-LI's 6.2-mile high-tension line from East Hampton to Amagansett, to pull the toxic Pentachlorophenol poles, and to bury the wires along a major corridor away from residential neighborhoods.

East Hampton Town Cancer Task Force, East Hampton, NY

Chaired the Environmental Sub-Committee, 1998-2000

Responsible for creating the town-wide cancer mail-out survey

Worked with committee members and the head of East Hampton Natural Resource Dept. mapping cancer occurrences throughout the township

Created queries to analyze data that were later submitted to local, state, and federal agencies

Millstone Walkabout, East Hampton, NY

Core organizational group leader in conjunction with STAR (Standing for the Truth Against Radiation), 1998

Earth Matters Fair, Sag Harbor, NY

Co-chaired Fair Committee, 1997

Organized and Managed the Fair Day

The East Hampton Town Recreation Department, Division of Youth Services, East Hampton, NY

Volunteered as a homework instructor for the after-school homework club that serviced children from 3rd through 12th grade, 1995-1996

The Pediatric Dental Fund of the Hamptons, East Hampton, NY

Participated in the creation of the organization, 1995-1996

Coordinated and participated in fundraising events

The Hampton Lifeguard Association (HLA), East Hampton, NY

Sponsored, coordinated, and participated in various lifeguarding events, 1995 to Present

Attended National Lifeguarding competitions

The East End Shoreham Opponents, East Hampton, NY

Co-chaired, 1981-1986

Spokesperson for the East End during PSC and NRC hearings

Organized and participated in numerous peaceful demonstrations and events that shuttered the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant

The Joint Town East End Lyme Disease Task Force, East Hampton, NY

Invited to be a founding member of the Task Force

Involved in addressing legislative issues regarding funding and educational awareness for the public sector, 1987-1990

The East Hampton Ladies' Improvement Society, East Hampton, NY

Participated in the annual fundraising summer fairs, 1986-1993

Chaired the "Student Volunteer Committee"

4-H Organizational Leader, East Hampton, NY

Initiated a 4-H program for 8 eight-year-old children, 1982-1987

Responsible for overseeing all the organizational activities and paperwork that went into creating a successful & enjoyable club for the children

PTA Member, East Hampton, NY

Participated as class parent, 1979-2006

Supervised school dances, field trips, and other school related events

CONTINUING EDUCATION**Karate/Martial Arts Training, East Hampton, NY**

Shin-Yo Karate, 1982-1986

Awarded: 2nd degree yellow belt, 1982

2nd degree green belt, 1984

2nd degree red belt, 1985

2nd degree brown belt, 1986

Yang Style Tai Chi, East Hampton, NY

Studied with Claire Hooton, 2007-2009

Practice daily

Certified First Aid & CPR, 1983

BLS (Basic Life Support) Course-American Heart Association, 1985

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 1997

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 2014

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 2015

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 2016

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 2017

BLS for the Healthcare Provider, 2018

BLS for Healthcare Provider, 2019

IS-00100.b Emergency Management Institute (FEMA training), 2016

Introduction to Incident Command System ICS- 100

IS-00200.b Emergency Management Institute (FEMA training), 2016

ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident, ICS – 200

IS-00700.a Emergency Management Institute (FEMA training), 2016

National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction

10-hour NYS Boating Power Squadron Course, Sag Harbor, NY, 2000

MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The International Dyslexia Association

The International Council of Teachers of English

American Library Association

Educators for Social Responsibility

Surfrider Association

Society for Children's Writers and Illustrators

International Screenwriters Association

New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

REFERENCES

References, certifications, and transcripts furnished on request.