

# Jayanti Tamm

Assistant Professor of English at Movable Type Management

Toms River, NJ, US

Author of *Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult* will inspire you to overcome adversities and create your own destiny.

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From the time of her birth, Jayanti Tamm, was declared the chosen disciple in the cult of Guru Sri Chinmoy. Jayanti lived inside the confines of the Guru's inner circle, shuttling between her family's home, Sri Chinmoy's Connecticut headquarters, and his ashram in Queens, New York. Sri Chinmoy assigned Jayanti to court celebrities, infiltrate the United Nations, and find elephants for him to weight lift, all in an effort to transform the world. At the age of twenty-five, after multiple attempts to leave, she was permanently exiled from the group. Tamm chronicled her experiences in her critically acclaimed book *Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult* published by Random House. Jayanti was a Visiting Professor in Creative Writing in the MFA Program at Queens College, CUNY. She currently is a contributor to the Huffington Post and teaches creative writing and literature at Ocean County College. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters where she is working on a novel.

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Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

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Education/Learning, Writing and Editing, Women, Religious Institutions

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Cults, Cult Leadership, Creative Writing, Overcoming Adversity, Memoir, Religious Sects, Religious Fundamentalists, Self-Empowerment, Inspiration to Change One's Life

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Queens College City University of New York, American University, Ocean County College, International Cultic Studies Association, UCLA Extension Writers Program

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## **Writing One's Life: Sharing Your Innermost Experiences For All The World To Read**

Writing a memoir requires taking great risks. The most effective memoirs plunge fearlessly into memory and expose what had once been concealed. That process demands shaping and reshaping memory to refine both the overt and subtle dimensions in order to transform it into a compelling narrative. To write one's true story, we need to take full ownership of our past as well as our aesthetic strategy. My workshop provides a safe, nurturing forum where the risks will result in deep rewards.

## **Finding One's Own True Path: The Journey To Finding One's Self**

Sharing her own extraordinary story of being born and raised as the 'Chosen One' in a cult, Jayanti Tamm inspires her audience to discover their own hidden courage and determination in order to find their own true path to happiness.

## **Cults: The Hidden Dangers**

In a riveting retelling of her own experience of being born and raised in a cult in 'mainstream America,' Jayanti Tamm reveals rare insights into the appeal of cults and the powers of their manipulation. Often shocking and always engaging, this lecture provides an inside glimpse into a world most people will never know.

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**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Darien Public Library Speaker Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
West Orange Public Library Event Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Byram Shubert Library Speaker Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
River Road Books Event Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Germ Books Event Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
SeaBrook Village Speaker Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Penn Bookstore Reading Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
The Book Cove Reading Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Monmouth County Library Headquarters Speaker Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Freehold Boro Public Library Event Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Just Books Reading Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Barnes & Noble Author Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Borders Bookstore Author Series

**Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**  
Mercantile Library Speaker Series

**The Memior: Sharing Your Innermost Experiences For All The World To Read**  
BooksNJ 2011

**Finding One's Own Path: From the Life of a Cult to a Full Life**  
International Cultic Studies Association Annual Conference

**The Journey to One's Self**  
Brandeis Book and Author Luncheon

**Writing One's Life: From Inspiration to Publication**  
Rutgers University Book Club Author Lecture

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**American University;**  
Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing

**Queens College City University of New York**  
Bachelor of Arts English

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**Author ? Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult**

Before her birth, Jayanti Tamm was prophesied to be the "Chosen One," by the guru Sri Chinmoy, a man who declared himself "God." Cartwheels in a Sari reveals the hidden world of growing up "cult" in mainstream America. With humor and provocative insight, Jayanti reveals the allure and illusion of cult life, and the struggle to control her own destiny while risking everything that she has ever known, including the person that she was ordained to be.

**Assistant Professor of English ? Ocean County College**

Ocean County College, a public two-year community college sponsored by Ocean County and the State of New Jersey, provides area residents with the opportunity to benefit from higher education. Ocean County College aspires to be an institution of distinction where faculty and staff serve to awaken students to a love of learning. We foster educational innovation through effective teaching-learning strategies, designed to develop and nurture intentional learners who are informed and empowered.

**Nominee ? Pushcart Prize**

In 2000, Jayanti was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, which is an American literary prize by Pushcart Press that honors the best "poetry, short fiction, essays or literary whatnot" published in the small presses over the previous year. The Pushcart Prize is the most honored literary project in America.

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**Dale Spindel**

I want to thank you again for joining us. Everyone was impressed, not only by your writing, but also by the way you were able to speak so beautifully and without rancor about your experiences growing up. This morning, my two co-workers who had attended last night still couldn't stop talking about it.

**Mary Serughetti**

I wish I were really good with words, not to mention "well-crafted sentences," to adequately express my thanks for another wonderful presentation. Your lecture was, as always, so well organized but what we love most of all is your ability to connect with the audience. There are some presenters who are always our "favorites" and you are certainly among our top three choices. Kudos.

**Kim Serpe**

I must say, there has been a buzz in the building since your visit. The students and staff (including me) found you absolutely captivating.

**Arlene Sahraie**

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making BooksNJ2011 such a magical day. And it was just that magical....words cannot convey our sincere gratitude for your generosity and good will. I am so thrilled that you could be part of our effort to bring readers and writers together!

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