

The Writer's Wire

Women Who Write: A Place, a Space, a Voice

April 15, 2015



WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

Encouraging, supporting and educating women who aspire to write

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FINDING THE EGGS: GOOD & BAD

This year, Easter fell in early April. The secular side of Easter is concerned with hunting for eggs and chocolate rabbits and filling baskets with goodies that are hidden from view. Writing can be a lot like embarking on an Easter egg hunt.

You start by knowing that you are eager to go on this hunt . . . you want to write. For some it may be poetry or a blog entry; for others it may be a short story, essay or book. You have anticipated the joy you will experience once you've created the final product, but you don't know how long it's going to take or where to begin.

You may be heading out to look for your story in familiar territory, or you may be in a place you've never been. Your own backyard provides stories from your personal experiences: stories of family, friends and school years, first loves and broken hearts. Some of these are beautiful and you are happy to gaze upon them for hours, recalling your joy and happiness. Others are not so attractive—you may have even avoided them for years—you might be wondering if you should pick these up and put them in your basket at all. But then you decide, yes, why not take both the good and the bad?

Maybe you've been invited to hunt for eggs in a place you've never seen, and it feels like an adventure. You don't know where you're going, but it is exciting and you are meeting new people and experiencing so many new things. Even better, because those whom you know best aren't with you on this hunt, you vow to tell them all about it later.

Writing is like the egg hunt; it is both a journey and adventure. You have to be willing to go there and fill your basket with everything that you find: familiar and strange, wonderful and broken. And you share with those around you and everyone has a better day because of you.

Keep writing.

—Jessica Luetzow



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WWW FOURTH WRITING CONFERENCE

Women Who Write has secured a venue and date for our fourth annual writing conference. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **July 18**. The conference will be held this year at Indiana Wesleyan University in the East End of Louisville. Louisville resident and author, Jan Arnow (*In the Line of Fire: Raising Kids in a Violent World*) will be our keynote speaker. Watch this newsletter for more details and information on speakers as we finalize our plans.

MEMBER NEWS

Susan Lindsey recently learned that two essays she submitted to *BioStories* magazine have been accepted for publication. One of the essays won honorable mention in the magazine's recent contest with the theme "elders." Her essays are "Chasing the Dead" about a genealogy obsession, and "Red Wings" about a legacy from her mother.

ABOUT WOMEN WHO WRITE

Membership: Our goal is to encourage, support and educate all women who aspire to write. Our group is diverse and dynamic, and includes writers who are just starting out, those who are newly published, and those in the middle of their careers.

Regular meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library, Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, Kentucky.

WOMEN WHO WRITE BOARD

| | |
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| Director | Jessica Luetzow |
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APRIL BRINGS SHOWERS, FLOWERS, AND TWO BIG EVENTS FOR WRITERS



*Attendees at the 2014 Kentucky Writers Conference
Bowling Green, KY*

- April 17–18: **Southern Kentucky Book Festival (SOKY)** and a full-day, free **Kentucky Writers Conference**. On Friday, several guest authors will speak on a variety of writing topics from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Workshop sessions are free; register at <http://sokybookfest.org/kwc-form>. On Saturday, the book festival gives thousands of readers the chance to meet more than 150 authors and buy signed copies of their books. Knicely Conference Center, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY.
- April 25: **Southwest Fiction Writers' Conference**. A day of writing workshops, networking, and local author interaction at the Southwest Regional Library, 9725 Dixie Highway. Call 502-933-0029 for details.

WRITERS ON WRITING

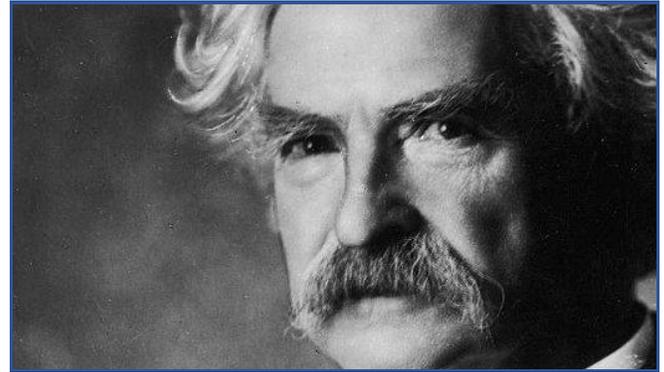
"A work in progress quickly becomes feral. It reverts to a wild state overnight. It is barely domesticated, a mustang on which you one day fastened a halter, but which now you can't catch. It is a lion you cage in your study. As the work grows, it gets harder to control; it is a lion growing in strength. You must visit it every day and reassert your mastery over it. If you skip a day, you are, quite rightly, afraid to open the door to its room. You enter its room with bravura, holding a chair at the thing and shouting, 'Simba!'"

—Annie Dillard

CONTESTS, MARKETS & GRANTS*

- [*Pulp Literature's* Magpie Award](#) for previously unpublished poems up to 300 lines. Winner receives \$500 and publication; two runners-up receive \$50 each. Entry fee: \$25 for first poem, \$10 each for subsequent poems. Deadline April 15.
- **Waterman Prize** for an essay exploring stewards of the wilderness. \$2,000 in prize money will be split among winners. Winning essay will be published in *Appalachia Journal*. April 15.
- [Writer Advice Flash Prose Contest](#) for fiction, memoir, and creative nonfiction of up to 750 words. First prize \$200, second prize \$100. Entry fee \$15. Deadline April 21.
- [Writer's Digest Manuscript Evaluation Contest](#). Grand prize: manuscript evaluation by author Barbara Kyle (worth \$1,200). Writers submit a 1,500-word sample and the winner will have up to a year to send the completed manuscript. No entry fee. Deadline April 30.
- [Highfield Press Essay Contest](#). Unpublished work (500–1,000 words) inspired by the words “spring fever” and the photo on the website. May be a personal essay, memoir, narrative nonfiction, commentary, travel piece, historical account, biography, or short story. Grand prize, \$1000. Entry fee \$20. Deadline April 30.
- [Fugue's Annual Poetry and Prose Contests](#). Submit one to three poems or one short story or essay. Winners in each category: \$1,000 and publication. Entry fee \$15. Deadline May 1.
- [Writer's Digest 84th Annual Writing Competition](#) offers prizes for writing in a range of genres. Winners receive publication, cash prizes, and more. Early-bird entry fees: \$25 for first prose submission and \$20 for additional entries; \$15 for first poem and \$10 each for additional poems. [Register and pay online](#) or [download a printable entry form](#). Early-bird deadline May 4.
- **Next Great Writers Contest**. Fiction or nonfiction up to 2,000 words or up to five poems. Submit to Next Great Writers Contest, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington, KY 40507. Include a cover sheet with writer's name, address, email, and phone; names should not appear on manuscript. First prize: \$150; second, \$100. Entry fee \$10. Deadline May 8.
- [Ploughshares Emerging Writer's Contest](#). Accepting fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Winner in each category receives \$1,000 and publication. Entry fee \$24. Deadline May 15.

- [Mid-American Review's Fineline Competition](#). Works up to 500 words. First prize \$1,000 and publication. Ten finalists receive notation and possible publication. Entry fee \$10. Deadline June 1.
- [Pulp Literature's Hummingbird Prize for Flash Fiction](#) for previously unpublished fiction up to 1,000 words. First prize \$300; runner-up, \$75. Entry fee \$15. Deadline June 15.



- [Mark Twain Humor Contest](#). Humor writing up to 7,000 words. Prizes range from \$1,000 to \$100. Entry fees \$12 or \$22. Deadline July 10.
- *Trajectory Journal* now accepting poetry and short stories. Sent submissions to *Trajectory Journal*, PO Box 655, Frankfort, KY 40602. Include a SASE for response. All year.

**Check contest websites for rules and details.*

EVENTS FOR WRITERS

- April 17–18: [Kentucky Writers Conference](#) and [Southern Kentucky Book Festival](#). SOKY is one of Kentucky's largest literary events. Knicely Conference Center, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY.
- April 24: **Kentucky Writers' Day**, Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. George Ella Lyon will be inducted as the commonwealth's new poet laureate.
- April 25, 1–4 p.m.: **Book Lover's Fair**, Woodford County Library, Versailles, KY. Authors in a variety of genres including romance, young adult, historical fiction, nonfiction, and more will be selling and signing their books. Call 859-873-5191 for information.

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EVENTS FOR WRITERS

- May 2: **Community of Creative Writers Retreat**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Thomas More College Biology Field Station, California, KY. Fee \$30; bring a lunch. Register at tmc.creativewritingprogram@gmail.com.
- May 9: **Carnegie Book Fair**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (in conjunction with Mayfest Arts Fair), Carnegie Center, Lexington, KY. Signings and book sales by renowned Kentucky authors. (If you are a Kentucky author interested in selling your book(s), email lwhitaker@carnegiecenterlex.org.)



Gratz Park, Lexington. Site of Mayfest.

- May 23–30: **Eight-day community workshop for creative writers** sponsored by Spalding University's low-residency MFA program. Students can attend all residency events, including lectures and panel discussions normally reserved for MFA students. Limited to 12 students. Email a five- to seven-page sample of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for children and young adults, playwriting, or screenwriting to mfa@spalding.edu. Registration fee \$800. Application deadline April 22. For info, email mfa@spalding.edu or call 502-873-4399.
- June 2, 7 p.m.: **Kentucky Great Writers Series** connects readers and writers. Starts with an open mic session; featured authors read at 7:30: Jacinda Townsend (*Spirit Monkey*), Arna Bontemps Hemenway (*Elegy for Kinderklavier*), and Molly Harper (*Better Homes & Hauntings*).
- June 5–6: **Books-In-Progress Conference**, Carnegie Center, Lexington. Features keynote speaker Bobbie Ann Mason, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of *Clear Springs, In Country*, and *The Girl in the Blue Beret*. \$150 before April 10; \$175 after April 10; \$25 off for students; additional \$25 for a one-on-one session with a literary agent.

- June 5–7: **Write Away! Retreat for Authors and Aspiring Authors**. Lost Lake Lodge at Wooded Glen, Henryville, IN. Registration: \$597. Call or email WWW member Cathy Fyock to reserve: 502-445-6539 or Cathy@CathFyock.com.
- July 26–31: **Appalachian Writers' Workshop** at Hindman Settlement School, July 26–31. Writers of varying skill levels are encouraged to attend, and you need not live in the region to apply. Participation is limited. Applications due May 1.

BEWARE OF "EVIL TWINS"

Mark Twain once said, "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." Many words in the English language are commonly confused. Beware of these "evil twins."

Accept/except. *Accept* means to agree, to receive something, or to assume a responsibility: "Nora *accepted* the package." *Except* means to exclude: "Nora signed for all the packages *except* one."

Farther/further. *Farther* typically refers to distance: "Serena can lob the ball *farther* than Venus." *Further* typically refers to time or quantity: "No *further* improvements are possible."

Its/it's. *Its* means belonging to it: "The door hung crookedly, *its* hinges broken." *It's* is a contraction meaning "it is": "*It's* obvious that the previous tenants broke the hinges."

Lay/lie. *Lay* means to place or put down: "*Lay* that platter on the table." *Lie* means to recline: "*Lie* down before you faint." (Both *lie* and *recline* have an "i.")

Lose/loose. *Lose* (rhymes with booze) means to misplace something or fail to keep it: "Harvey has a tendency to *lose* his glasses." *Loose* (rhymes with juice) means not securely fastened or restrained: "The bicycle handlebars were *loose*."

That/which. *That* introduces a phrase that defines: "The car *that* cut me off in traffic was speeding." (Which car was speeding? The one that cut me off in traffic.) *Which* introduces a phrase that provides additional, but not essential, information: "The car, *which* was red, cut me off in traffic."

Then/than. *Then* conveys a sense of time: "Gloria was thinner *then*." *Than* compares things or people: "Gloria is heavier *than* Rita."

Your/you're. *Your* means belonging to you: "Leave now and take *your* poodle with you." *You're* means "you are": "If you and your dog don't leave now, *you're* going to be in trouble."