

# The Writer's Wire

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

February 2016



## WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

Encouraging,  
supporting and  
educating women  
who aspire to write

P.O. Box 6167  
Louisville, KY 40206-0167  
Phone: (502) 387-3880  
[www.womenhowrite.com](http://www.womenhowrite.com)

### Content

DIRECTOR'S NOTE .....	1
MEETING VENUE .....	2
ABOUT WWW .....	2
JEANNIE WALDRIDGE.....	2
CONTESTS .....	3
EVENTS.....	3

## A NEW DIRECTOR TAKES THE HELM

Dear Fellow Writers,

The previous board deserves a grand thank you for sustaining a viable organization that supports women's voices. Those wonderful women include Jessica Luetzow as director; Paula Dillman as associate director; Susan E. Lindsey as communication, public relations, and newsletter editor; Charlet Johnson as secretary; and Holly Hinson as treasurer. Thank you, ladies, for helping the new board transition into their new positions.

Early in grade school, I wrote a short essay on large-ruled handwriting paper, the kind with big blue lines and dashes. It was accompanied by my own artwork. I used the word "goodies" in my story. My brown skin irritated the teacher. My name was difficult for her to spell and pronounce. Despite her palpable distain, she had me read "Goodies" to the class. They laughed, and I fell more in love with writing.

I continue to write, seek feedback, and gravitate to others who value the craft. My knack for writing is rooted in my Ojibwe ancestors and family members who enjoy telling stories. Strong Native American leaders work for the upcoming Seventh Generation. It is imperative that Indigenous leaders not stand out, seek advancement, or manipulate in self-aggrandizing ways. In that spirit, I attempt to lead with humility and a servant's heart.

I look forward to helping members realize their writing dreams. At the end of the two-year term, I will have succeeded if you engaged with writing in a way you haven't before, wrote something you've been meaning to write, submit to a writing contest you've never entered before, or thought enough of WWW that you bring a guest or two. Spread the joy. As I wrote in a poem for my mom, "words are my playground." Come play with us!

*(pictured above: Jessica Luetzow, Dana Lindley, Selene Phillips and Joan Dubay)*



*—Selene Phillips*

## CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE

The Highlands Shelby Park Library will be **CLOSED** for facility renovations, so we will be moving our monthly meetings to another library, in their community room.

For the months of April, May, and June 2016, please join us at the St. Matthews Library

3940 Grandview Avenue

Louisville, KY 40207

Phone: (502) 574-1771



**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

**Director**..... Selene Phillips  
**Associate Director**..... Dana Lindley  
**Associate Director, Communication & PR, Editor**  
 ..... [Jessica Luetzow](#)  
**Secretary** ..... Joan Dubay  
**Treasurer**..... Melony Dixon

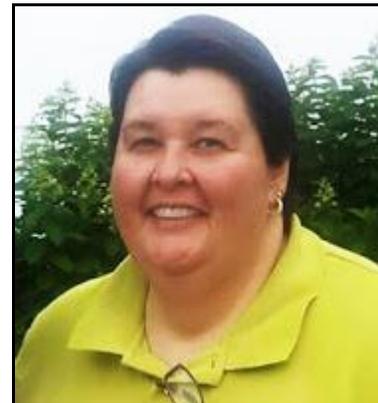
## CONGRATULATIONS, JEANNIE!

Long-time WWW member Jeannie Waldrige won first place in a WOW! Women on Writing Winter 2015 flash fiction contest for her piece “The Church Meeting.” The genre usually limits the word count to less than a few hundred.

Unlike most writers who need a quiet environment, Jeannie craves chaos. She said, “I like to have noise and activity. If things are too quiet, I find it terribly distracting. I am most content when I write with flash fiction parameters, small word count, and a complete story at the end. Then the story is neatly wrapped up with a bow. I think it has been difficult for me to branch out with my writing style because I love completing the project and moving on to another story.”

She is committed to entering contests and improving her writing to be productive. “There are only so many hours in the day, and I tend to get distracted by shiny things. I really do benefit from having a specific challenge or contest to write, or life creeps up and gets in the way,” said Jeannie.

The certified alcohol and drug counselor is not afraid of technology. “I am finding the note app on my phone to be a perfect typing medium. I can write a few lines here and there with little fanfare. It is amazing how productive you can be on a smartphone.”



A photographer friend provides inspiration. “He has sent me some pictures and asked me to write a story. Those stories are some of my favorites. I really love that process and find that using photos is a great way to start a story. It is amazing where our imagination takes us with just a little snapshot from a moment in time,” she said.

*(Continued next page)*

## JEANNIE WALDRIDGE (CONTINUED)

Jeannie credits WWW with helping her progress. “There are so many talented writers there. It really pushes you to want to write better. Everyone has different styles so the feedback helps you look at your piece from different perspectives.”

Jeannie said everyone should enter a contest at least once every six months. “Of course, once a quarter is even better if you are entering the WOW contest. It is a great way to keep us all writing and sharing our talents,” she said. “If there is a critique available, it is worth the investment to get the feedback.”

She has some advice for other writers. “Join a writing group [for] feedback and support on a regular basis. It never hurts to have a little input before you hit the submit button. Who knows, you just might win.”

See Marcia Peterson’s full story on Jeannie at the Women On Writing website.

### CONTESTS, MARKETS & GRANTS\*

- [Learning From Nature Essays](#). Seeking essays about what we learn from the natural world, up to 4000 words. Entry fee \$20. Deadline Feb 1.
- [Penny Fiction: A Flash Fiction Writing Competition Round Two](#), Seeking exceptionally small works: tell us a story in exactly 16 words—no more, no less. Prize \$25. No entry fee. Deadline Feb. 29.
- [Wow! Women on Writing Winter 2016 Flash Fiction Contest](#) is for fun and creative stories, any genre, between 250–750 words. First prize is \$350. Entry fee \$10. Deadline Feb. 29.
- [South Carolina First Novel Award](#). Accepting manuscripts between 150–400 pages. Winner receives a \$1,000 advance against royalties. Hub City Press will publish at least 2,000 copies of the books. Entry fee \$35. Deadline March 15.
- Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry, Sarabande Books. Seeking unpublished full-length collection of poetry. Prize, \$2000 and publication. Submit from March 15–April 30. See <http://www.sarabandebooks.org/Morton/>
- Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, Sarabande Books. Seeking a collection of short stories, novellas, or a short novel, \$2000 and publication.

Submit from March 15–April 30. See <http://www.sarabandebooks.org/mccarthy>.

- [Azule Residencies](#). AZULE is an emerging art and community-based organization with retreat and residency programs for people who enjoy Appalachia. Fifty miles from Asheville, NC.

*\*Be sure to check contest websites for complete rules and submission guidelines.*

### EVENTS FOR WRITERS

- Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Portland Poetry Series, monthly poetry readings. [McQuixote Books](#) & Coffee, 1512 Portland Ave.
- Feb. 8, 6 p.m. **Flying Out Loud** poetry reading. Anyone interested in reading, contact Steve Cambron at [barbu68@hotmail.com](mailto:barbu68@hotmail.com). Sunergos Coffee Shop, 2122 South Preston St.
- Feb. 11, 7 p.m. **Garth Greenwell**, reading and signing his new book, *What Belongs to You*. [Carmichael’s Bookstore](#), 2720 Frankfort Ave.
- Feb. 12, 7 p.m. **InKY Reading Series** featuring Kathleen Driskell (poetry) and Carrie Jerrell (poetry). The Bard’s Town, 1801 Bardstown Rd.
- Feb. 29, 6 p.m. Homegrown Art, Music and Spoken Word, poetry readings.
- March 7, 6–8:30 p.m. **Six-week memoir workshop** by Kimberly Crum, Shape & Flow Writing Studio, 1860 Mellwood Ave. Studio 123, Louisville. \$160. Register: 502-417-3424 or [shapeandflow@gmail.com](mailto:shapeandflow@gmail.com).
- March 16, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Morning version of the six-week memoir workshop. See above.
- March 12, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. **Techniques to Revise your Writing**. Learn tips and techniques to improve your writing from WWW member and professional editor Susan E. Lindsey. Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. \$35. Register [online](#).



I believe that unarmed truth  
and unconditional love  
will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.