

The Writer's Wire

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

March 16, 2015



WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

Encouraging, supporting and educating women who aspire to write

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IN LIKE A LION; OUT LIKE A LAMB



March certainly came in like a lion this year, forcing us to cancel our meeting earlier this month—a very rare action for us to take.

March is a month of transition. Winter gives way to spring, or at least it tries to do so. The month can be marked with every kind of weather from snowstorms to

tornadoes, and people say that if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

Writing is a lot like the month of March: coming and going in fits, starts, and waves. You can feel frozen and stuck in the rut of having not written anything in a while, or you can unleash a torrent of poetry or prose.

I expect that some of you found a chance to write, or at the very least, edit some work in progress during the almost two weeks of being forced to stay off the roads and be home from work. Whatever you have worked on, please bring it our next meeting on April 2 and share it with us.

Speaking of sharing, I want to take a moment to congratulate George Ella Lyon, a longtime friend of Women Who Write, on being named Kentucky's poet laureate for 2015-16.

On her website, www.Georgeellalyon.com, she describes her writing process: "When something touches me deeply, I write to capture or explore or understand it. This begins in my journal where it's just for me. Then if it seems like something I want to share, I move out of my journal and start working on a legal pad. I don't usually know what it's going to be or who it's for when I begin. I write to find out!"

Join us for your own chance to explore your writing; you will be in good company. See you soon.

—Jessica Luetzow

NEED "GOOD INK" FOR YOUR BOOK?

Susan E. Lindsey is teaching "Good Ink: Using Media Relations to Promote Your Work," at Shape & Flow Writing Studio in the Mellwood Arts Center, 1860 Mellwood Ave., Louisville. This workshop, held on Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m., is for writers who have already published a book or who are getting ready to publish soon.

Most authors are on their own when it comes to publicizing their books. This workshop will help authors write and distribute their own press releases and media kits, or "pitch" to the media. The workshop includes explanations of terminology, pros and cons of using media relations, writing and formatting press releases, tracking down media contact information and more. Fee \$20. Email shapeandflow@gmail.com to register.

WRITERS' WISDOM

"We have all been little pitchers with big ears, shooed out of the kitchen when the unspoken is being spoken, and we have probably all been tale-bearers, blurters at the dinner table, unwitting violators of adult rules of censorship. Perhaps this is what writers are: those who never kicked the habit."

—Margaret Atwood

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.

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GEORGE ELLA LYON NAMED KENTUCKY'S NEW POET LAUREATE

Women Who Write is pleased to congratulate Lexington poet, author, lyricist and teacher George Ella Lyon on her appointment as the Kentucky poet laureate for 2015-16. Writers who attended the 2013 Women Who Write writing workshop will recall George Ella's great keynote presentation.

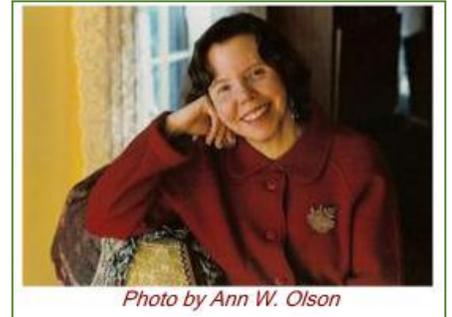


Photo by Ann W. Olson

George Ella Lyon is a graduate of Centre College and earned her MA in English at the University of Arkansas and a doctorate in English from Indiana University. During her career, she has taught, served as a writer-in-residence, a visiting author and workshop leader. George Ella has written more than 40 books that include poetry and short story collections. She is perhaps best known for her "Where I'm From" poem, which has been used in writing classes and workshops around the world.

In a news release issued by the Kentucky Arts Council, she said, "I'm always trying to help people hear their own voices, their own stories and know that those matter; that they have weight and beauty and that they are worth sharing. Part of that is listening deeply to what people write or the questions they ask. Many people are afraid of poetry because they don't understand it. I hope to reach past that and welcome them, and that they infuse poetry into their everyday language and hear the poetry in their everyday speech."

GET THE LATEST WRITING NEWS

How do writers learn about classes, contests, conferences and more? There are several great *free* newsletters and email alerts you may wish to sign up for. These include:

- *Kentucky Literary News*; email kylitnews@carnegiecenterlex.org
- *Savvy Writer*; email info@savvy-comm.com
- *Shape & Flow Writing Studio*; email kimberly.g.crum@gmail.com
- *Funds for Writers*; subscribe at <http://www.fundsforwriters.com>

CONTESTS, MARKETS & GRANTS*

- **Master Class in Fiction** at the Carnegie Center in Lexington; takes place on Thursdays from April 9 to May 28, 5:15–7:15. Limit 10 participants. Fee \$175. To be considered for this class, please submit ten pages of fiction and a short note describing what you would like to learn more about in fiction writing. Send your application materials to CCLL1@carnegiecenterlex.org. Deadline for submission March 21.



- [Chicken Soup](#) is seeking inspirational, joyous, heartwarming or humorous poems or stories about Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa. Up to 1,200 words. Pays \$200 and 10 copies. Submission deadline March 31.
- [Sixth Annual Gemini Magazine Short Story Contest](#). Unpublished works in any subject, style, genre or length. Grand prize \$1,000; second \$100; three honorable mentions \$25 each. Entry fee \$5. Deadline March 31.
- [Lascaux Prize for Flash Fiction](#) up to 1,000 words. First prize \$1,000 and publication. All genres and styles. Entry fee \$10. Deadline March 31.
- [Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards](#). Grand prize: \$8,000, a trip to the WD conference and other prizes. Multiple genres welcome. Deadline April 1.
- [Kentucky Foundation for Women Special 30th Anniversary Grants](#). For artists, activists and organizers at the forefront of creating feminist art for social change. Deadline April 3.
- [Creative Nonfiction's "The Weather" Essay Contest](#): Seeking true stories—personal, historical, or reported—about weather events. First prize \$1,000; runner-up \$500. Entry fee \$20. Deadline April 13.

- [Pulp Literature's Magpie Award for Poetry](#) 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 the question of who the stewards of the wilderness are. A total of \$2,000 in prize money will be split between winners. Winning essay will be published in *Appalachia Journal*. Open to U.S. residents. Deadline 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.
- [Fugue's Annual Poetry and Prose Contests](#). Poetry, short stories, essays. Winners in each category: \$1,000 and publication in *Fugue*. Entry fee: \$15. Deadline May 1.
- [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. Deadline for application 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 5 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, e-mail, 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.

*Check contest websites for rules and details.

EVENTS FOR WRITERS

- March 21: **What's Your Story? Memoir Writing Workshop**, 10 a.m. to noon, Hancock County Public Library, Hawesville. Instructor Indiana author K. D. Adams. Register: 270-927-6760.
- Saturdays March 21 to April 4, 10–11:30 a.m. **Writing for Children & Teens Workshops**, Bon Air Library, 2816 Del Rio Place, Louisville. Contact jclalude@gmail.com for information.
- March 27, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: **Good Ink: How to Use Media Relations to Promote Your Work**. [Shape and Flow Writing Studio](http://ShapeandFlowWritingStudio.com), Mellwood Center, 1860 Mellwood Ave., Louisville. \$20. Instructor, Susan E. Lindsey. Email shapeandflow@gmail.com to register.
- March 28, 10 a.m.–noon: **Writing for Religious Markets**, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. Instructor Karen Leet. \$30.



Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning, Lexington, KY

- April 4, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.: **That Book Place Authors' Fair**, National Guard Armory, Madison, IN. See list of authors and full schedule at <https://www.facebook.com/events/652526584838644/>.
- Tuesdays, April 7–May 26, noon–1:30 p.m. **Nonfiction Writing Group**, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. Instructor Neil Chethik. \$96.
- Wednesdays, April 8–May 20, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Fiction Writing Group**, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. Instructor Sarah Combs. \$84.
- April 10, 7–8:15 p.m. **InKY Reading Series**, celebrating National Poetry Month, The Bard's Town, 1801 Bardstown Rd., Louisville. Open mic starts the evening.

- Mondays, April 13–May 18, noon–1:30 p.m., **Writing Kids' Books**, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. Instructor Marcia Thornton Jones. \$72.
- Wednesdays, April 15–May 20, 5:45–7:15 p.m., **Writing Poetry**, Carnegie Center, 251 W. Second St., Lexington. Instructor Jeff Worley. \$72.



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

- April 17–18: [Kentucky Writers Conference](#) and [Southern Kentucky Book Festival](#). SOKY is one of Kentucky's largest literary events. On Friday, several of the authors will speak on a variety of writing topics from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Book Fest gives thousands of reader the chance to meet more than 150 authors and buy signed copies of their books. Knically 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.
- 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.
- 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.