

The Writer's Wire

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

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WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

Encouraging, supporting and educating women who aspire to write

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CONSIDER BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER

After a long hot summer—much of it spent like Tennessee Williams’s cat on a hot tin roof—we welcome shorter days, dropping temperatures, and changing leaves. All of us heave a sigh of relief anticipating the pleasures of autumn, a transitional season. “Change is good,” we all say.

And so it will be for the board of Women Who Write. Every two years, a new group of women take the helm and chart a course for our writing group.

We will have elections for new officers in December and the new board will start in January.

And that’s something I want to talk about here: a little known fact perhaps, but our leadership has changed up with each new board. It has always been a new mix of personalities and experiences, fresh faces, and new voices.

It has been my distinct honor to serve as your director these past two years, and I want to share my story. I learned about Women Who Write when I attended a writer’s conference and met Susan Lindsey, who was then our director. She invited me to try out the organization; that was in September 2013. I was looking for an opportunity to take on a leadership role and learn new skills, and so it was that I became director a mere three months later! I had not been a long-term member, nor did I know the other members of our new board. I have to say I enjoyed getting to know them while I worked alongside them. Our board is one that I respect and have had quite a lot of fun with over the past two years—many of you notice that we occasionally goof around in our monthly meetings. This camaraderie comes from spending time together.

The current board isn’t going anywhere. Everyone on the 2014–15 board plans on staying with WWW as members. We will be here to answer questions and provide guidance for the next board. Our writing group is 22 years old and has had eleven different boards; operating this way is really our lifeblood, our heart and soul. We are a group of writers who come together to share our work and support other women in the process. It only seems fair that different women play a role in leading our efforts to be one of the best critique groups out there.

Every woman has something to offer. Say “yes” to board membership. It might just be one of the best times of your life!



—Jessica Luetzow

TWO GREAT NOVEMBER EVENTS

The [Kentucky Book Fair](#) is the state’s premier book fair. This year’s event will be on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort, Kentucky. (Children’s Day is Nov. 13 at the same location.) The fair draws approximately 4,000 visitors from Kentucky and surrounding states.

Each year, more than 150 authors attend the fair, prepared to sign their latest books and meet their readers. This year’s line-up includes Wendell Berry, Sallie Bingham, George Ella Lyon, Frank X. Walker, Bobbie Ann Mason, Alecia Whitaker, and a host of other wonderful writers. Former WWW member [Sheila Joyce Pyle](#) will be selling and signing her book, *Sweet Evening Breeze and Other Kentucky Characters, Communities, and Chronicles*, at the book fair.

Also on Nov. 14, Louisville Literary Arts hosts the [Writer’s Block Festival](#) at Tim Faulkner Gallery, 1512 Portland Ave., Louisville. The event includes readings, panels, guest talks, craft workshops, a print and resource fair, and a “Literary Death Match.” Adam Johnson is the keynote reader. Workshop leaders include Lee Martin, Danielle Dutton, Kelly Creagh, Marcus Wicker, and Steve Moulds.



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

Director[Jessica Luetzow](#)
Associate Director..... Paula Dillmann
Associate Director, Communication & PR, Editor
 [Susan E. Lindsey](#)
Secretary Charlet Johnson
Treasurer..... Holly Hinson

RETREAT AND WRITE



Mark your calendars now for the annual Women Who Write members-only retreat on Oct. 17–18. The retreat, held at Hopscotch House, provides a perfect opportunity to work on your books, stories, essays, and poetry. You can retreat to a quiet corner of this beautiful old farmhouse, or wander the garden or grounds and write to your heart’s content.

There are a limited number of bedrooms available for members who wish to spend the night. We’ll share meals, and there will be plenty of free time to write or get to know one another. The retreat is a benefit to members and is free, although the Kentucky Foundation for Women, which owns Hopscotch House, suggests a donation of \$10 per person per day.

This is a wonderful gift of quiet and time to write. Plan now to attend.



WRITE A NOVEL IN A MONTH? ARE YOU CRAZY?

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). According to the [website](#), **NaNoWriMo** “is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing. On Nov. 1, participants begin working towards the goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 30. Valuing enthusiasm, determination, and a deadline, NaNoWriMo is for *anyone* who has ever thought fleetingly about writing a novel.” If you’re up for the challenge, check out the details on the [NaNoWriMo website](#) and get started.

WWW CONTEST WINNER LANDS HONORABLE MENTION IN *GEMINI* CONTEST



Hilary Sloin, whose story “Radiohead,” took third place for prose in the Women Who Write 2011 writing contest, has another feather in her cap. Hilary’s story, “Tidying Up,” received honorable mention in *Gemini* magazine’s recent short story contest. See her story at <http://www.gemini-magazine.com/>.

CONTESTS, MARKETS & GRANTS*

- [Blue Mesa Review](#): fiction and creative nonfiction from 5 to 20 pages. \$500 and publication. Entry fee \$11. Questions? writers14block@gmail.com. Deadline Nov. 1.
 - [Pulp Literature’s](#) Raven Short Story Contest, fiction up to 5,000 words. First prize \$500 and publication. Entry fee \$25. Deadline Nov. 1.
 - [Chicken Soup for Military Families](#): true stories up to 1,200 words from active or retired soldiers and their families. Pays \$200 if selected for publication. Deadline Nov. 30.
 - *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.
- *Be sure to check contest websites for complete rules and submission guidelines.*

EVENTS FOR WRITERS

- Sept. 19, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.: [Kentuckiana Authors Book Blitz](#), in the fantastic Faces Lobby of the Palace Theater, 625 S. Fourth St., Louisville, KY.
- Sept. 21–22: University of Louisville, Floyd Theater, **Native American Film Festival**. The documentary *Crying Earth Rise Up* will show on Mon., Sept. 21, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Sherman Alexie’s award-winning *Smoke Signals* will show on Tues., Sept. 22, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Shape & Flow**, 1860 Mellwood Ave., Louisville: [four-week essay class](#) starts Oct. 6; [Weaving Externals into Essay](#) on Oct. 10, [six-week morning memoir workshop](#) starts Oct. 19.
- Oct. 9, 7 p.m.: **InKY Readings**, The Bard’s Town, 1801 Bardstown Rd., Louisville. Featured readers include Nancy Jensen, fiction (*The Sisters*); Nickole Brown, poetry (*Fanny Says, Sister, Air Fare*); Jessica Jacobs, poetry (*Pelvis with Distance*); and special guest, Jenna Goldsmith.
- Oct. 10: **Indy Author Fair**, Indianapolis Central Library, 40 E. Clair St., Indianapolis.
- Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Louisville Literary Arts’ **Writer’s Block Festival** at Tim Faulkner Gallery. See details page 2.
- Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: **Kentucky Book Fair**, Frankfort, KY. See details on page 2.

