



Board Retreat

Gathering to Grow the Guild Beyond 2025

In early November, the IWWG board and staff gathered in Board President Judy Huge's Tampa living room, in person and by Zoom, to dream The Guild seven years into the future, 2025. Each woman contributed her time, travel, and housing, and Judy made a lot of meatless soup! What has emerged is a vision of a vital Guild, no longer dependent on just one big annual conference, instead offering all kinds of engaging experiences, in person and online, throughout the year for women wanting to find their words, wanting their words to be found. It was hard work to reach for stars; we believe we grasped them.

Our two new Board members, Leslie Neustadt and Morgan Lett,

made solid contributions. Leslie is a longtime Guild member and former Deputy Attorney General of the State of New York. Morgan is a motivated visionary with conference-planning experience and a fluency in technology modes critical to our sustainability.

As The Guild pursues our evolution from conference-centered to member-centered engagement, we'll hold on to our traditional commitment to empower women writers, to enrich their lives and professions, by providing meaningful in-person and virtual experiences. We'll curate thriving communities of practice and illuminate pathways to publishing and alternative channels for being heard and making a difference. This expanded approach will allow us to diversify our funding opportunities into product sales, the pursuit of grants and sponsorships, a wide range of programs both in person and online, as well as donations from our members and friends.



Left to right: Kelly DuMar, Hope Player, Chris Hugill, Dorothy Randall Gray, Morgan Lett, Laura Kieley, and Judy Huge. On the computer: Leslie Neustadt, Marj Hahne, and Dixie King.

Thank you, Guild members, for showing your belief in us with your words, your engagement and participation, and your generous dollars. Let's keep walking together this enriching journey that is the Guild experience.

Learn more about our new board members, Leslie and Morgan, at www.iwwg.org/our-team.

BEFORE the holiday season buries you in lights aglow and pumpkin-pie dough and—if you're lucky!—mistletoe...

OPEN these pages to see what's "under the tree" for NOW and the New Year:

- Registration Open, with Member Advantage Rate, for 42nd Annual Summer Conference (p. 9)
- Savings on 3-Pack of Digital Village Webinars (p. 10)
- Savings on 3-Year Membership Renewal (pp. 6-7)



By Morgan Lett

Dr. Shirlene Holmes, black dramatist, poet, director, educator, and performer, is known for her revolutionary plays, short stories, and poems. Her nonconforming works have been staged from Atlanta to Ireland to Africa. From her solo biographical drama, *No Detours Ahead*, to her plays, *Conversation with a Diva* and *The Lady and a Woman*, and two published poetry books, *Coming Into Being* and *Afterpiece*, her writing style springs to life in a way that draws presence and inspires liberation from her diverse audiences.

At five years old, Holmes received her first library card in Queens, New

Shirlene Holmes: A Bold Voice in A Time of Change

York. From this exposure to books and literature, she chose to become a writer. She has received many awards and recognitions for her works on and off the stage. Her fearless voice is a radiant light in a generation of women voices from the past, present, and future. Her creative works carry themes of intersectional identity paradigms of race, gender, sexuality, spirituality, and class. Holmes' MFA in Theatre and Playwriting from Southern Illinois University and her Doctorate in Performance Studies make up the foundation of her formal educational background. However, her true inspiration lies in the women who have inspired her journey along the way.

Speaking from her home in Georgia, Holmes talked with The International Women's Writing Guild's new board member, Morgan Lett, about the

journey of writing, girlhood, black culture, the stage, self-identity, and liberating women's voices.

Morgan Lett: You began professionally writing when you were fourteen years old. What led you to become a woman of performance and words? What was your awakening moment?

Shirlene Holmes: I realized, after I learned to write my name, that words were powerful and sacred. They were eternal. Once I learned to write my name, I knew and felt that I truly existed. I learned a lot about life in that one moment. I learned that if someone called me, *my* name would appear. Plus, my name was unusual at that time. My name was Shirlene and the kids called me Sherlock. It didn't make me happy because the last thing I wanted to be was a boy.

In my elementary years, I knew I wanted to be a writer. At the time, I didn't know that black people wrote books. I grew up in segregation and we only had the books that were passed down by the white schools. I can remember the first time I learned that black women actually wrote books. I flipped over a book called *Why the Caged Bird Sings* and saw there was a black woman's face on the cover. That moment was the first time I knew it was possible to be black and write about my feelings, the world around me, and my people. Maya Angelou was the first author that allowed me to see myself.

cont.

SPREADING THE WORD

Dear Members, we serve each other and the world with our words! Let's serve both by passing along this copy of *Network*:

- Hand it to a friend.
- Give it to your local library.
- Leave it on a bus.
- Add it to the stack of magazines at your doctor's office or favorite coffeehouse.

Help spread the good word(s) of The Guild.



captive *living* audience that reminds me of a wedding. When you are at a wedding, you are not there to be a spectator. You are at the wedding to experience it. Performance is an experience. I became *very* caught up with dramatic writing because of it.

ML: Are there any specific movements, works, and/or productions that you feel are important (present, past, and future) to the culture of women writers and artists of color?

SH: It's wonderful to see [the change in the current writing world]. I feel, in many ways, my generation has done what it came to do and can continue to do. It's wonderful to see people do it faster and younger and without a lot of the same struggles of someone in the past. I think it's because the climate is better. The internet made the audience larger, and the voice is there now. So, I'm glad I could see it.

At the age of fourteen, I began professionally writing. I started as a poet. I would write my poems down and put them in a photo album. That's how I would sell my work. Poetry taught me how to use my words to shape language. It gave me a way to express my feelings the way the authors did in their books. I always loved reading. I loved books. My favorite type of books were biographies because I was very interested in what people did with their lives. I read and studied the masters [women writers and performers] because I knew one day I wanted to be them.

ML: Where does your current inspiration (purpose) to create come from?

SH: When I was younger and in college, I became more and more interested in how I could express myself. And, for me, *dramatic* writing is when my voice is most clear. The writer has time to turn the page, but the dramatist only has right now. It's something about the *now* that truly inspires me. It's something about a

A woman who inspired me to explore the stage was Pearl Craig, a black playwright and novelist. She said she became a playwright because it's the one place a black woman can speak uninterrupted. Craig's words inspired me because I came to age in a radical time. The women who were writing at that time were writing to challenge ideas and empower women. I watched women burn books and bras at the rallies. Being a woman was finally a *thing*...but something was still missing for me.

I looked up around the age of seventeen and I didn't want to live the life around me. I wanted to live my dreams like wild women. I knew I had to do something else. I wanted sense, so I had to go find it. I wanted to be bold enough to identify with the women bold enough to say that motherhood is not an option and marriage is a choice. I wanted to live my life and die on my own terms—that was liberating for me. All the free women in history, they inspire me.

The writers that I love the most are the most daring. I love all the artists who did what they had to do—Frida Kahlo, Audre Lorde. I consider it a legacy, all the books left for this generation. There is so much wisdom left here. But the writer has to identify herself first. She can't get the inheritance of all the wisdom that was left for her until she identifies herself first. And I think there are some amazing young women who are out there doing it right—women like Katori Hall and nambi e. kelley, writers whom I have seen holding their ground nicely.

I feel that women need to lead now more than ever because the artist creates the biggest impact on society. And *all* women are artists. The artist holds the mirror to see ourselves. The artist is *here* to write about it, to sing about it, to dance about it. That's how the change happened in the sixties, and it can happen again. That's what we need. We need women with the commitment to existing. [We need

cont.

HOLMES, cont.

women] [t]o just be. To just be whatever it is they were meant to be.

ML: What advice would you give to a woman writer today?

SH: I encourage every woman writer today to identify and nourish herself. A woman writer should identify herself the way she wants to be identified. I write what I want to write. *A Lady and a Woman* is my most successful and only full-length play. It is a story about two women and their beautiful spiritual relationship. When I wrote that play, I gave myself permission to challenge myself and my ideas. I gave myself permission to go with the flow, with where my writing was taking me.

I didn't allow myself to censor my characters. You have to write for *you*.

Nobody should tell a writer what to write. If you don't write it, it will just float to whoever is most receptive to it. But somebody has to write; the world is waiting.

ML: What thoughts do you have on your future as a writer and particularly your involvement with The Guild?

SH: I'm *always* going to be a writer. Always. Even when I can only think words, I'll write them in my mind. I feel as someone who, while very young, wanted to be in the world as a writer and is very grateful that she did it. I am proud of the things I have written. I am proud of the struggles

I have journeyed. I am ecstatic that it's not over. I'm excited that there is always something to write about because words can make a difference.

I don't think my career is at its end but in another chapter. I am glad to have nourished over thirty years of students who have gone on to create their own words and express themselves in the world.

I am excited that the IWWG is finding space for women of diverse backgrounds. I believe that it is important to continue making it a priority of sorts. I am also looking forward to teaching a new workshop at the annual conference at Muhlenberg next summer.

I'm just excited.



WRITER, DO YOU WANT TO BE FOUND?

Getting found by the right peeps—your readers, local or online writing pals, potential collaborators—is a numbers game. 5,300+ women are subscribed to the IWWG mailing list. 700+ women are current Guild members. Do you want to find, and be found by, each other?

Wait, there's more...people who want to find you! Potentially 7.6 billion—all of whom can discover you, your writing, your personal and professional pursuits, if they can access and read your IWWG Member Profile, at www.iwwg.org.

1. To EASILY update your IWWG Member Profile and expand your

visibility worldwide, let Morgan Lett guide you through every step in this 15-minute video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-qNMkiWXY&t=153s.

2. If, after viewing the video, you still have questions, email kellydumar@gmail.com or morganlett@gmail.com.
3. After you update your IWWG Member Profile, or if you have done so already (brava, Writer Woman Wanting to Be Found!), email kellydumar@gmail.com

The screenshot shows a member profile for Laura Balius Engel. It includes social media links for Facebook and Instagram, an Amazon Author page URL, and writing genres (Memoir, Family History). There is a photo of Laura and a bio that reads: "After retiring 3 years ago, with a happy heart I began the journey of the next chapter of my life. I have dreamed of writing a book or two from the time I first learned to hold a pencil. What a wonderful ride my life has been with deep, deep valleys and glorious mountain tops. I am married with 6 (yes 6!) children and 4 daughter in laws, and 9 grandchildren. (yes, 9!) I live in San Diego, Ca. and retired from the corporate world of title insurance sales after 35 years. I plunged into the San Diego writing community almost by accident and I knew immediately I had met my tribe. I have completed the SDSU Member 101 certificate program and now serve on the board of San Diego Memoir Writers Association. Two of my chapters in my book were selected to showcase in San Diego, one published this year and one due for publication in 2019." The profile also features a "Meet Memoirist Laura Balius Engel" section and a link to www.iwwg.org/member.

so she can feature your profile in a graphic and post it in our members-only Facebook group, IWWG Members Room (www.facebook.com/groups/IWWGmembers).



PRIZING WOMEN AND THEIR WORDS

Here are the winners of the third of our annual literary prizes! Congratulations to these standout writers, and big thanks to all of you who submitted your winning words.

Not only do these contests put The Guild on the radar of the larger literary community, but we've attracted new members and contacts, and we're getting acquainted with the voices of the hundreds of women writers who've submitted their work. Read about our new literary contests at www.iwwg.org/literary-contests.

Susan Tiberghien Prize for Narrative Nonfiction
Judge: Sharman Apt Russell

FIRST PLACE
Anna St. Sylvan
"To Gallop the Red Rock"

SECOND PLACE
Kate Whitehead
"Town Hussie"

THIRD PLACE
Jordan Hanson
"Workplace Relationships"

HONORABLE MENTION
Catherine O'Neill
"A Day at the Beach"

HONORABLE MENTION
Wendy Coyle
"Pomegranates Like Blood"

These pieces will be published in our online literary journal launching in 2019! Arielle Silver, the Editor-in-Chief, has invited us to submit suggestions for its name (as many as you can dream up!) here: <http://bit.ly/NametheJournal>.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS

Formerly called a "kitchen table," an IWWG "writing circle" is a local gathering of women writers who meet on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis to share their work in a mutually supportive environment. We promote local writing circles by publishing information submitted to us, as well as requests by members looking to either join an existing group or form a new group.

NOTE: If you wish to find or form a writing circle, or are currently a member of a writing circle open to new members, send your request/announcement, in the below format, to membernews@iwwg.org, or browse previous issues of *Network* for a listing in your area: www.iwwg.org/network-newsletter.

CIRCLES SEEKING WRITERS

Columbus, OH
1st Saturdays: January 5,
February 2, March 2
10:00 AM–12:30 PM
Karl Road Branch Library
5590 Karl Rd.

Free and open to all. We offer writers a supportive environment for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing. Each participant may share her writing. Bring 4–5 copies of the work you'd like to have critiqued.

Jeanne Marlowe
jamarlowe@juno.com
(614) 476-8802

WRITERS SEEKING CIRCLES

New York, NY
Seeking a creative writing group that meets anytime except in the early to mid-afternoon. I live on the Chelsea-Village border and would prefer a group that's willing distance from my house and that's working on short assignments or short pieces. I have published short stories and one memoir.

Babette Becker
babetteedance@gmail.com
(212) 691-3797



AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS FROM THE IWWG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Student Member Dues rate of \$45. If you're a full-time student, you can join or renew at the NEW Student Rate!

Want to save money now? Join or Renew before March 1, 2019 at the 2018 rates!

Take advantage

We are thrilled to announce:

- Exciting Membership Benefits
- New Student Member Rate
- Special Membership-Renewal Incentives
- Membership-Dues Increase

As we close another successful, invigorating year of serving women writers, we want to let you know our vision for IWWG membership in 2019, how The Guild will uniquely serve your writing life, and how you can help us sustain and grow our membership, so we can thrive as a vital, international nonprofit membership organization.

For 2019, we have voted to increase the Basic IWWG Membership Dues to \$75 (from \$55), starting March 1, 2019. Plus, we're introducing a

of these generous incentives to join/renew BEFORE THE RATE INCREASE ON MARCH 1, 2019:

- Join or renew at the current annual rate of \$55 before March 1, 2019.
- OR**
- Commit to a 3-Year-Membership and lock in the \$55 annual rate by renewing for three years for \$165 before March 1, 2019—a \$60 savings!

All of these Member Benefits belong to you in 2019!

- ▶ A DISCOUNT on registration for our events, in-person and online.
- ▶ A DISCOUNT on registration for our enhanced summer-conference experience at Muhlenberg College, featuring 25 multi-genre writing workshops, salons, book fairs,

dancing, and evening socializing in the Red Door Lounge.

- ▶ A DISCOUNT on submission fees for our literary contests.
- ▶ Your WRITER PROFILE featured in our upgraded online Member Directory, with your bio, contact info, and active links to your website, blog, and social-media platforms. (This feature is OPTIONAL, and you choose whether to make your profile public or private.) This marketing benefit allows other members and the public to find your profile at www.iwwg.org by searching by name or state, where they can read all about you as a writer, view your photo, and visit your website, blog, and social-media pages.
- ▶ ACCESS to two MEMBER FORUMS: (1) our Facebook group, IWWG Members' Room, and (2) our Writer Share Forum, at www.iwwg.org, where you can engage with other members, share your writing successes, swap knowledge to support your writing life, post new writing for comments, and seek and offer tips, advice, submission opportunities, articles, and interviews.
- ▶ A jumpstart on new writing through our weekly *TGIFreewrite Day* writing prompts, plus a chance to post your responses to our members-only Writer Share Forum and members-

www.iwwg.org/join

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only Facebook group, IWWG Members' Room.

- ▶ Opportunity to display our IWWG Member BADGE on your website.



- ▶ Your print or electronic copy of *Network*, our quarterly newsletter, with craft articles, local writing-circle notifications, and member news.
- ▶ Opportunity to GATHER in local/regional IWWG writers' groups. This program is being developed by our Board Vice President, Laura Kieley, and will launch in 2019.
- ▶ Dramatic ANNOUNCEMENTS of your book publications, complete with a full-color picture of the book cover, in *Network*.
- ▶ The opportunity to PITCH your book to agents, one-on-one, at our annual Spring Big Apple conference, in New York City, for a member-discounted registrant pitch fee.
- ▶ The opportunity to SELL your books at our conference book fairs at no extra charge when you are a registrant.
- ▶ A DISCOUNT on ads appearing in *Network*—a marketing opportunity launching in 2019.

- ▶ A FREE SEAT in our members-only *Conversate* online discussions sparked by a story or writing-related article or essay.
- ▶ A FREE SEAT in our members-only online book clubs and critique groups.
- ▶ A chance to READ your work to an international audience in our online All Voices Open Mic.

Members and friends, we—the IWWG Board of Directors—have only just begun to serve you. It's our honor, our pleasure, and our passion to give to this IWWG community. Your membership dues go a long way toward sustaining The Guild and strengthening its place in this world. We hope these incentives and benefits inspire you to join or renew today. Membership in The Guild has never been as rewarding as it is right now. Hurry and renew now to take advantage of all that's waiting for you. Your writing life will thank you.

In the spirit of The Guild,

*Judy Huge
Laura Kieley
Hope Player
Cathleen O'Connor
Kelly DuMar
Raquel Arrechea
Dorothy Randall Gray
Morgan Lett
Leslie Neustadt*



IWWG Members' Room

www.facebook.com/groups/IWWGmembers

Join our private-group Facebook page, where members post their writing and calls for submissions. You need a personal Facebook page to join a Facebook group.

IWWG Writer Share Forum

www.iwwg.org/forum

Post your responses to the weekly *TGIFreewrite Day* prompts (and any of your writings) for witnessing and feedback. Instructions for accessing this discussion forum appear at the bottom of every *TGIFreewrite Day* weekly email.

***Network* is a quarterly publication** of The International Women's Writing Guild. All members receive *Network* electronically, and U.S. members receive a free print copy.

Information for inclusion in *Network*, notification of publication, member news, and submissions to Giving Voice should be sent to membernews@iwwg.org.

All other correspondence should be sent to iwwgquestions@iwwg.org.

WORDS ON... BRAVERY

"I don't allow the fear of consequences to interfere with the writing process. I have in the past paid for my commitment to the truth and the way I live my life. I am prepared to pay more if I have to."

Taslina Nasrin

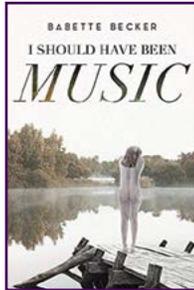


HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

Babette Becker

I Should Have Been Music

In the 1950s, when nothing was known about childhood trauma, the author spent four years in four mental hospitals, passed from hospital to hospital, carrying several diagnostic labels. This memoir includes Becker's poetry, notes from her hospital journals, and doctors' notes, showing the stark contrast between her fear and desperation and the doctors' thinking.



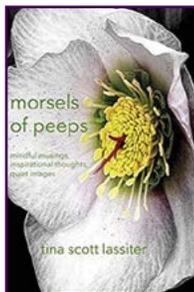
Page Publishing, January 2018

www.ishouldhavebeenmusic.com

Tina Scott Lassiter

morsels of peeps

A short collection of musings about the world, creativity, mindfulness, or simply just living, with a sprinkling of black-and-white photographs taken by the author. *morsels* is filled with inspirational and thought-provoking writings with an underlying message to “keep your peepers open” as you move through life!



CreateSpace, September 2018

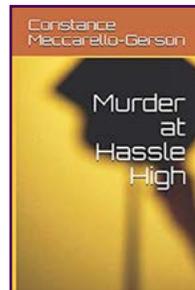
www.theeclecticeye.blogspot.com

www.tinascottlassiter.com

Constance Meccarello-Gerson

Murder at Hassle High

A high-school principal is found dead in her office, and a middle-aged English teacher can't resist participating in the investigation. The quirky plot of this cozy mystery is well-paced, filled with a cast of malcontents, who are viable suspects. Maria is a likable protagonist, curious, feisty, self-deprecating, and constantly getting into trouble. Especially charming is her 10th-grade English class—the Nut Squad.



Amazon and Kindle, August 2018

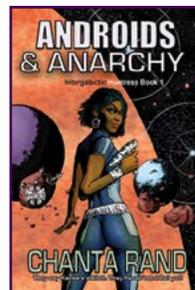
www.constancemeccarello.com

Chanta Rand

Androids & Anarchy

(Intergalactic Huntress Book 1)

Fighting hideous mutants and an army of Liquidators sent to destroy her, a galactic bounty hunter races against the clock to keep an evil aristocrat from using his synthetic fiends to take over the universe.



Chanta Rand Books, November 2018

www.chantarand.com

Donna Baier Stein

Letting Rain Have Its Say

This collection offers the reflections of a mature woman who has few illusions about life but who moves forward with courage, hope, and love. Expertly crafted, these poems call readers into the immediate and extended circle of the poet's family; they speak the language of dreams; and they meditate upon strengths and frailties that empower the human spirit.



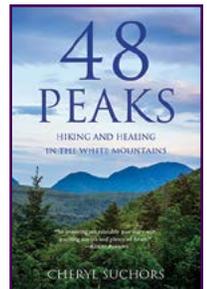
Kelsay Books, February 2018

www.donnabaierstein.com

Cheryl Suchors

48 Peaks: Hiking and Healing in the White Mountains

“An inspiring yet relatable true story with exciting scenes and plenty of heart,” says *Kirkus Reviews*. One of BookBub's “10 Life-Changing Memoirs to Pick Up This Fall”: “an eye-opening look at grief, strength, and the power it takes to overcome your biggest fears.” One of POPSUGAR's “7 New Nonfiction Books for People Who Don't Like Nonfiction.”



She Writes Press, September 2018

www.cherylsuchors.com

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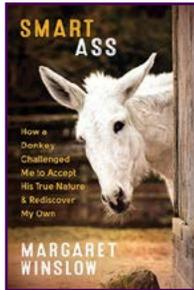
Conferences

WANT AN IN-PERSON GUILD EXPERIENCE IN 2019?

Margaret Winslow

Smart Ass: How a Donkey Challenged Me to Accept His True Nature and Rediscover My Own

When an overworked college professor in New York City answers a for-sale ad for a “Large White Saddle Donkey,” hilarity ensues, along with life-threatening injuries and spirit-enriching insight. Walk with Winslow and Caleb the donkey through training traumas, expert-baffling antics, and humiliating races, and share in Winslow’s gradual understanding of Caleb’s true, undeniable gifts: a willingness to be true to himself, to trust, and to forgive.



New World Library, October 2018

www.margaretwinslow.com

How to Submit Your Book to Hot Off the Presses!

If you have a book publication within the last year, please submit the information to membernews@iwwg.org in this format:

- Author name
- Title
- Short blurb (max. 50 words)
- Publisher and publication date
- Author website
- Link to cover art (such as on Amazon)

Read more and register at www.iwwg.org/in-person-conferences

WomenWordsWest (formerly California Dreaming) Saturday, March 16

Antioch University, Los Angeles, CA
Crafting Your Story, Growing Your Soul
with Linda Bergman (film), Jessica M. Wilson Cárdenas (poetry), Dorothy Randall Gray (memoir/storytelling), and Sherri L. Smith (Young Adult fiction)

Spring Big Apple Sunday, April 7

CAI Global, Inc. Learning Center, Midtown Manhattan
Hands-On Creativity: From Inspiration to Finished Product
with Cathleen O’Connor, Paula Scardamalia, and more

4th Annual Boston Retreat Friday, May 10 evening – Saturday, May 11

Medfield, MA
Writing the Heroine’s Journey: In Memoir, Poetry, Prose, and Drama
with Maureen Murdock, Susan Tiberghien, Kelly DuMar, and Vanessa Jimenez-Gabb

42nd Annual Summer Conference

Friday, July 12–Friday, July 19

Muhlenberg College, Muhlenberg, PA

Writing the Body: Voice, Craft, and Art in Changing Times

with Anya Achtenberg, Lynne Barrett, Suzi Banks Baum, Linda Bergman, Kelly DuMar, Vanessa Jimenez Gabb, Janice Gary, June Gould, Dorothy Randall Gray, Marj Hahne, Judy Huge, Maureen Murdock, Cathleen O’Connor, Alice Orr, Jan Phillips, Caridad Pineiro, Judith Prest, Paula Chaffee Scardamalia, Eunice Scarfe, Linda Leedy Schneider, Myra Shapiro, Arielle Silver, Pamela Sneed, Donna Baier Stein, Susan Tiberghien, Pam Varkony, and Yun Wei

Get your **MEMBER ADVANTAGE RATE** now through January 31, 2019!

Register at www.iwwg.org/summer-conference.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE DIGITAL VILLAGE?

Well, we're declaring for 2019 a new narrative—one that authentically, powerfully, thoroughly expresses the fullness of women's voices, concerns, desires, obsessions, and objectives.

So, let's usher in The Year of the New Narrative by learning together, in these NINE 4-week webinars! Register now and, if you can't attend "live," a video recording will be emailed to you to view at your convenience.

Tuesdays: January 8, 15, 22, 29

Life Inspires Ideas: Ignite Your Daily Journal Practice, with Suzi Banks Baum

11:00 AM–12:30 PM Eastern / 8:00–9:30 AM Pacific

Wednesdays: February 6, 13, 20, 27

The Heroine's Journey as a Narrative Structure, with Maureen Murdock

1:00–2:30 PM Eastern / 10:00–11:30 AM Pacific

Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, 24

Narrative and Poems, with June Gould

7:00–8:30 PM Eastern / 4:00–5:30 PM Pacific

Mondays: April 8, 15, 22, 29

Are You There, God? It's Me Again: Coming-of-Age Stories for Every Age, with Sherri L. Smith

1:00–2:30 PM Eastern / 10:00–11:30 AM Pacific

Wednesdays: May 1, 8, 15, 22

Spiritual Narrative: Claiming It, Writing It, Publishing It, with Jan Phillips

3:00–4:30 PM Eastern / 12:00–1:30 PM Pacific

Thursdays: June 6, 13, 20, 27

Narrative of Healing: Writing Through the Intersection of Struggle and Community-Self Care, with traci kato-kiriyama

7:00–8:30 PM Eastern / 4:00–5:30 PM Pacific

Sundays: September 8, 15, 22, 29

The Narrative of Embodiment: Reclaiming the Feminine Self, with Dixie King

7:00–8:30 PM Eastern / 4:00–5:30 PM Pacific

Mondays: October 7, 14, 21, 28

Narratives of the Unconscious, with Susan Tiberghien

October 7, 14, 21: 11:00 AM–12:30 PM Eastern /

8:00–9:30 AM Pacific / 5:00–6:30 PM Geneva

October 28: 12:00–1:30 PM Eastern /

9:00–8:30 AM Pacific / 5:00–6:30 PM Geneva

Sundays: November 3, 10, 17, 24

Narrative of Truth: The Power of Reality in Storytelling, with Pamela Varkony

4:00–5:30 PM Eastern / 1:00–2:30 PM Pacific

cont.

PRICING

Single webinar: \$119 Members / \$149 Nonmembers

3-pack: \$297 Members (\$99/webinar)

\$387 Nonmembers (\$129/webinar)

WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

Buy a 3-pack and choose your three webinars later.

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Buy a single webinar or give away one from your 3-pack.

HOW THE 3-PACK WORKS

You don't have to choose your 3 webinars upfront, but you do need to select from the list of 2019 webinars by December 31, 2019. That is, this offer expires at the end of 2019, and no partial or full refunds will be given. If you select a webinar that's already happened "live," we will email you the recordings (all four sessions), plus the instructor's materials. These recordings are yours to keep, to view at your convenience, and do not expire.

MORE INFO

To read about the webinars and their presenters, and to register, visit www.iwvg.org/online-digital-village/

FREE DIGITAL VILLAGE PROGRAMS

Wednesday, January 30

Hybrid-Lit Book Club: *Barrie Jean Borich's Body Geographic*, facilitated by Marj Hahne

7:30–9:00 PM Eastern / 4:30–6:00 PM Pacific

FREE to members

Sunday, February 10

Poetry Book Club: *The Door*, by Margaret Atwood, facilitated by Lisa St. John

6:00–7:30 PM Eastern / 3:00–4:30 PM Pacific

FREE to members

Coming in April!

Member Book Spotlight: Cynthia Manick, author of *Black Hallelujahs*, interviewed by Christine Graf (Second Place winner in our 2018 Myra Shapiro Prize in Poetry)

In Honor of National Poetry Month

FREE to members & nonmembers

Read more and register at www.iwwg.org/online-digital-village.

Did you know? All of our free-to-all webinars are uploaded to our YouTube channel—IWWGchannel—at <http://bit.ly/IWWGYouTube>.



Member News

We'd love to hear about all your writerly news—readings and recognitions—and any feedback for us. Email it to membernews@iwwg.org.

Winning Essay in the County and the State

My nonfiction piece “Lorraine” won first place at the county and state levels of the North Carolina Senior Games, Silver Arts Literary Division. You can read “Lorraine” here: www.ncseniorgames.org/2018LifeExperiences1.pdf.

Martha Pederson

Life in the Gray Area

Thank Goddess the World Wide Web remembers everything! And thanks to our co-Executive Director, Hope

Player, for locating this 2012 blog post at *Poets & Writers* about one of our beloved Guild teachers and board members: “Dorothy Randall Gray, In Her Glory.” What we’ve known for years has become public—and permanent—knowledge! Read all about it here: www.pw.org/content/dorothy_randall_gray_in_her_glory.

Share Your Multimedia Creativity in Columbus, Ohio

Most 4th Saturdays: A Time to Honor Our Individual Journeys, 12:00–1:30 PM

JungHaus, 59 W. Third Ave.
(PARKING NOTE: Because construction blocks the entrance to W. Third Ave. from High St., turn onto W. 4th Ave., which curves left

onto Apollo Place. The entrance to Columbus Gifted Academy’s parking lot is on the right. Free parking is available only for attendees of our Saturday programs). Free for members of IWWG, the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (www.iaco.org), the Jung Association of Central Ohio (jungcentralohio.org). Share 3–5 minutes of your photography, art, music, dance, dreams, or writing, or simply enjoy what emerges from informal multimedia group process when we express what matters to us, enriching understanding of our diverse and common humanity.

Jeanne Marlowe
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(614) 476-8802



WINTER LOVES ME

Winter loves me.
But it is unrequited.

I've been Summer's girl forever
in my short skirts and flip flops,
sailboats and SPFwhatever.

Well, sure, I've flirted shamelessly with Spring.
We were both budding and full of promise.

And it's possible you saw me curled up in a corner
with Fall,
especially during that phase when she was calling
herself Autumn.

So, it's not like it's a secret.
Yet every year Winter still shows up.
Offering sparkly crystals and long dark nights
and comfort food
even though I explain that I am "on vacation"
(a nice way of saying I knew you were coming
and so I left).

I try to distract Winter
by introducing girlfriends he could love instead of me
because they understand "cross-country skiing" and
"windchill."
But it doesn't work.

Winter can see my breath.
Winter knows my secrets.
Winter loves me.

—*Dana Robb*

Winter Loves Me

Love comes in many forms, but, for me, it is the arrival of winter. It is only during winter that I have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of frozen lakes and icicles decorating trees like Christmas ornaments. Sometimes the wind kisses my cheeks, but sometimes it slaps my face and

tries to push me in directions I don't want to go. Later, it cuddles me in its arms, convincing me it will be my faithful companion for a while.

Winter expresses its love for me the most whenever the weather is too bad for me to go outside. Miraculously, my den becomes a sanctuary. I light candles, stoke the fireplace, and play smooth jazz. An imaginary partner and I float around the room as I mingle memories of the past with hopes for the future. Time stands still. I am no longer running with the "check engine" light on.

When the music ends, I settle down with my guilty pleasure—an ice-cream piña colada. I wrap my body snugly in a blanket and reflect on my failures, regrets, and indignities. All is forgiven. I am reassured again that winter loves me, because its presence always reminds me that spring is one step away. As spring is the season for new beginnings, I know that I, too, will bloom again. I pull my blanket closer around me and, at seventy-five, make plans to do something new, for the first time, like skydiving.

—*Evelyn Crawford Rosser*

UPCOMING THEMES & DEADLINES:

- Decluttering My Life: January 15
- What Can Be Heard in a Seashell: May 15
- Falling Up: August 15

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission is open to Guild members only and can be written in prose or verse. Please keep the length to 250 words or less, and proofread your work carefully. Email your piece, as a Word attachment (.doc or .docx), to membernews@iwwg.org, with "Giving Voice" as the subject line. Failing to follow these instructions will result in our not considering your work this time around.