By Judy Huge
IWWG Board President

I am the Guild. I’m the woman who once wrote for a living but not for living. I’m the woman whose genre was once academic and business, my gender hidden behind the protective coloration of those ties Lily Tomlin once said, “Aren’t a bow and aren’t a ruffle, but it doesn’t threaten anyone because you don’t look good in them anyway.”

Then I crossed a bridge to the sea and that changed everything. Crossing the Sagamore Bridge onto Cape Cod for my annual visit, I decided it was time to find the ten-year-old writer I had long ago left stranded on the beach. First I found a brochure for a writing workshop being offered by a Guild board member. Then I found her home with seagull feathers and pens spread across her table. At month’s end I found the Guild’s annual summer conference and, by the end of that week, I had found myself.

I am a woman who surprises herself every time she puts down her pen. I’m a woman who treasures the stories I see in the eyes of every woman I hear at open readings, sit across from at lunch, read to in the closing moments of a workshop.

I’m a woman writer who came to the sea, learned to see, found my wave and am riding it home.

I am the Guild. Join me.

The IWWG’s fall 2019 “I Am the Guild” campaign celebrates and honors every member and supporter of the Guild. We want to hear from you! Please send your statements to membersnews@iwwg.org. We will publish them in our communications to women writers worldwide.

Help build the Guild as we introduce programs in 2020 including a member/mentor initiative, enhanced member profiles, a relaunched website, and volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to raise $50,000 by December 2. After one week, we are at 15% of that goal! Donate now at http://bit.ly/IAmtheGuild.
I am the Guild. As a commercial fiction writer, I wasn’t sure what I would get from joining the Guild and boy was I surprised. Sisterhood, support, and such wonderful workshops and events that opened my mind to new and exciting facets of my writing and to who I was on so many levels. From the moment I stepped into the welcoming embrace of the Guild I realized I was part of something special. More importantly I realized that the other members and I are what make it remarkable. I realized that I am the Guild.

I am the Guild. I heard about IWWG from a friend in 1996. I was down with a bad back for a few days and was feeling bad that no one in my life at that time knew me as a writer! I wrote in high school and college, then went silent for 20+ years. Joining the Guild put me in touch with local women writers and, in 1997, I went to my first IWWG Summer Conference, which knocked my socks off. Since then I have been to many of the Summer Conferences – at Skidmore, at Brown, at Yale, and now at Muhlenberg College. I have continued to grow as a writer and artist since joining the Guild. IWWG has been both touchstone and inspiration for me for the past 22 years. I have four poetry books in print – three self-published and the most recent NY Finishing Line Press. Great gratitude to IWWG and everyone who keeps it going!
HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

Esma Ashraf  
*Shamma: The Dancing Flame*  
This is a collection of romantic poems which signifies the spiritual and sensuous element in artistic ways. “Shamma” means ‘a flame of the candle’ in Urdu language. It is a desire that radiates us in many ways. The spark in its heart illuminates to raise a passion of love inside. Each new flame spreads light, whether we fly in ecstasy or sink into the downing tears of love.  
Archway Publishing, Simon & Schuster, April 2019  
[www.esmashraf.com](http://www.esmashraf.com)

Suzi Banks Baum  
*Walloon Writers Review Fourth Edition*  
An exciting collection of short stories, tales & legends, poetry and photography inspired by Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula including a short story about Maxie, a teen aged girl making sense of her life in a small town in the UP by Suzi Banks Baum.  
Walloon Writers Review, October 2018  
[www.suzibanksbaum.com](http://www.suzibanksbaum.com)

Mary Frances Carney  
*The Buddha of Eastern Parkway*  
Nara, beset by grief after witnessing a tragedy, enters a Zen temple to overcome suffering and find her true self. Called back to her dying mother on Eastern Parkway, she learns her unknown father is a Catholic priest. Mother, priest, daughter weigh history as Nara searches for her own completion.  
Independent Press, October 2019  
[www.EidoFrancesCarney.com](http://www.EidoFrancesCarney.com)

Lynne Barrett  
*Making Good Time: True Stories of How We Do, and Don’t, Get Around in South Florida*  
Editor Lynne Barrett has assembled new South Florida essays about “childhood journeys, late night rides, jobs, passions, crashes, rescues, historic events, and human dreams. They offer a diversity of voices and perspectives: adventurous, confessional, investigative, reflective, irate, hilarious, and tender,” and ask what we really mean by *Making Good Time.*  
Jai-Alai Books, September 2019  

C.B. Lyall  
*The Virus of Beauty*  
The Virus of Beauty is spreading, and no witch’s power is safe. A teenage boy must be persuaded to accept he’s a wizard and release the cure from a spellbound journal he inherited from his father. But Wilf’s hatred of using magic will not easily be overcome.  
Austin Macauley Publishers, LLC, July 2019  
[cblyall.com](http://cblyall.com)

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How to Submit Your Book to Hot Off the Presses!  
If your book was published within the last year, submit the details to [membernews@iwwg.org](mailto:membernews@iwwg.org) as follows:  
- Author name  
- Title  
- Short blurb (max. 50 words)  
- Publisher and publication date  
- Author website  
- Link to cover art (such as on Amazon)  

Note: We only publish announcements about books that have an ISBN numbers and are available for purchase through a publishing house, bookseller, or other publication website.
Rita Pomade  
*Seeker: A Sea Odyssey*

The author lived aboard the Santa Rita for 6 years. The yacht was her home, her refuge, her prison, and her husband’s mistress. During those years, she dealt with pirates, murderers, monsoons, violent seas, changes in cultures, and a disintegrating marriage that began as a dream to find Shangri la, but ended with her finding herself.

Guernica Editions, May 2019

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Katey Schultz  
*Still Come Home*

The characters in *Still Come Home* are each searching for the best way to live—all the while fighting cultural, societal, and political forces far beyond their control. As their paths intersect over the span of three days, Katey Schultz’s novel explores how their decisions will forever alter each other’s lives.

University Maryland’s Apprentice House Press, October 2019  
[www.kateyschultz.com](http://www.kateyschultz.com)

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Dorothy Rice  
*Gray is the New Black: A Memoir of Self-Acceptance*

Age happens. While a memoir of one woman’s quest for self-acceptance and forgiveness, this is also a universal, relatable book. It’s funny, and sad... like life. If you have a complicated relationship with your mother, your partner, food, your hair, your body, the past or the present, this book with resonate with you.

Otis Books, Seismicity Editions, June 2019  
[www.dorothyriceauthor.com](http://www.dorothyriceauthor.com)

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Ruth Steinberg  
*The View From My 80s*

The poet’s view is of the bewildering, difficult, beneficial, often funny aspects of aging. In clear, poetic language packed with memorable images she explores the implications and consequences of her life with an honesty that adds intensity to her work. Her natural diction makes the work accessible and extremely powerful.

Kindle Direct Publishing, July 2019

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Susan Tiberghien  
*20th Anniversary Edition of Circling to the Center, Invitation to Silent Prayer*

A luminous spiritual memoir inviting the reader to the practice of silent prayer. The author includes an Afterword to update her journey, opening the confines of her own darkness and finding atonement in the natural world and in the presence of Sophia, the “hidden wholeness” of creation.

Chiron Publications, October 2019  
[www.susantiberghien.com](http://www.susantiberghien.com)

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WORDS ON... REAPPEARING

“Some women get erased a little at a time, some all at once. Some reappear. Every woman who appears wrestles with the forces that would have her disappear. She struggles with the forces that would tell her story for her, or write her out of the story, the genealogy, the rights of man, the rule of law. The ability to tell your own story, in words or images, is already a victory, already a revolt.”

—Rebecca Solnit
Linda Albert talked poetry in a 15-minute radio interview on Surf 97.3 FM WQFB (FL) following her award in the Flagler County Arts League Annual Poetry Competition for her poem, “Tantric Breathing.”

Patricia Bell-Scott appears in the new documentary, Breaking the Silence, about the southern white writer and human rights activist Lillian Smith. Patricia recently participated in a post-screening panel discussion at the University of Georgia Hargrett Library.

Anna Bozena Bowen was a panelist in the “Building a Relationship” discussion at the WriteAngles Conference at Mount Holyoke College. The panelists shared the various methods they use to attract readers and build reader loyalty.

The Women Writers and Artists Matrix Retreat from November 1-3 at Skidmore College will include these IWWG members Marilyn Day and Dorothy Randall Gray as presenters.

A number of Donna J. Gelagotis Lee’s poems have recently received recognition including: being featured at Verse Daily; published as a chapter of the collection Motherhood and Social Exclusion; and selected to appear in Luzerne County, PA buses as part of the Poetry in Transit program.

WriterAdvice.com is running a Scintillating Starts Contest and all submissions are guaranteed to receive feedback. IWWG member Lynn Goodwin, who is also the website’s managing editor, will tell you what works and what trips her up, what she loves and what concerns her.

Lynn Hesse won first place in the Mary Purcell Best Novel, First Attendee, and 2nd place in the Hal Barnard Memorial Award category, for her unpublished manuscript, Stranded in Atlanta, at the Southeastern Writers Association Conference. Lynn will also and speak about the cycle of domestic violence at the upcoming “You Are the Resource” funderaiser in Decatur GA.

Almost Famous, a chapbook by Trish Hopkinson, was recently accepted for publication by Yavanika Press. It will be free to download from their site later this year. Additionally, Trish’s poem, “Other Ways,” was published in Glass: A Journal of Poetry. The poem, newly written, was her response to the mass shootings in the U.S.


Juanita Kirton’s chapbook poetic memoir Letters To My Father was accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press, with a release date early next year.

Rita Pomade’s book, Seeker (which is included in our “Hot Off the Presses” section), was shortlisted for the Concordia University First Book Award given by the Quebec Writers Federation. Winners will be announced in early November.

The publisher Taylor & Francis/Routledge have asked Carren Strock to write a third edition of her book, Married Women Who Love Women. The update sheds new light on the issue, broadening the scope to include the redefining of relationships and marriages, the impact on persons who identify as transgender, and the testimony of women who have worked to create full, authentic lives within their sexual identify and orientation. It will be published in late 2020.

The Frost Stone House and Bennington College are sponsoring an afternoon event centered around Cheryl Suchors’ memoir, 48 PEAKS, Hiking and Healing in the White Mountains on Sunday, October 20.

The Jung Society of Washington DC has posted Susan Tiberghien’s online courses, “Writing to Your Soul” and “Seeing Beauty with Words.” Each course is an hour and a half lecture, with a written transcript, handouts, suggested readings, discussion board and a complementary introduction.

Linda C. Wisniewski has signed with Sand Hill Review press to publish her time travel novel, Where the Stork Flies. Linda also saw the publication in August in Little Rose Magazine of her essay on visiting an Indian pueblo.
UNFOLDING MY OWN MYTH

“Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth...”
—Rumi

When I was a child, books took me away from a house fraught with conflict and into a magical world where adventures abounded, mysteries engaged, and the specter of happy endings loomed just over the horizon. The escape and inspiration I found in books took me into worlds so fascinating that I became a real-life traveler of worlds as an adult, eager to meet people of different cultures, looking through a window into unfamiliar lives.

I didn't know it at the time, but I was on a journey as Rumi says, to unfold my own myth – to discover who I was and what gave meaning to my life. For much of my adult life I was a chameleon, able to adapt the shades of my personality to the circumstances in which I found myself. A survivor's trick. If it is not safe for you to be who you are, then it is comforting to have a magic trick of facile transformation in your bag.

Calling myself a writer was one of the myths I kept in my back pocket as I traveled universes within and without. Even though I had won awards in college with my short stories and had my poetry published, I never spoke the words 'I am a writer.' Not until I spent a lazy summer afternoon at Skidmore sitting on the grass under a shade-giving elm talking with a woman twice my age about the magic of creativity and sharing my dreams of claiming my essence as writer.

She, and many wonderful women of the Guild, taught me about real magic: magic created in the cadence and music of poetry, in the power of memoir to open the heart, in the worlds created in compelling fiction. I now know that magic exists every time a writer puts pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and spills part of her creative soul out to be seen, heard, spoken, read and touched.

Unfolding my own myth has been a bit like pulling on silly putty – stretching this way and that to unkink all that is not me to find that which is. It’s a journey that I joyfully continue to travel, fingers on keyboard, creating the magic that is uniquely mine.

After all, Oscar Wilde said it best: “Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.”

By Cathleen O'Connor

Coming Up in Digital Village

8 Mondays beginning November 4
Create Writing Magic: Getting You to the Finish Line with Cathleen O’Connor

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

As writers, we find inspiration and motivation from many sources. We also find distraction and delay. Take eight weeks to look at your writing aspirations from the inside out and learn how your own creative brain works and which expectations rule your progress. Jump-start your dreams, refine your goals, and gain tools to take the actions you need to make real progress as you head into a new year. Bring a project to work on or begin something new. Together, we’ll create writing magic!

• Identify your motivational patterns and how to work with, not against, them
• Learn strategies for overcoming procrastination and perfectionism
• Discover your own formula for a successful writing life
• Find that working with your dreaming mind can spark inspiration
• Step back into presence and release worry and feelings of overwhelm

Registration, as well as more details on the content and individual sessions, is available at www.iwwg.org/webinar-oconnor.
Inspired by a Mary Cassatt Painting

Sara Handing a Toy to the Baby
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT

There have been days when I’ve wished I could stitch moments of early motherhood into a quilt to wrap around my shoulders when I’m cold and alone, rub those yards and yards of delicate fabric between my fingers like a child’s blankey, sit still enough to again hear my children’s young voices: Mom, can you play now? Look at this! Why are there clouds?

At the time, my exhausted mind refused to take in those cameos with the eye of an artist.

But now in my tidy house, when afternoons often carry nothing but the sound of cat feet, I look back and see the vivid beauty of tiny pinecones and shiny stones forgotten in pockets, rediscovered in the washing machine;

the perfect curve of a dirty little cheek;
the magic of bubbles brought to life from a dripping plastic wand.

Those long ago moments curl at the edges and I know they’re too frayed to make a good quilt. So from now on, I’ve decided to put some in a vase on the kitchen table, fly others like kites when the wind is right, and bring my favorites on woods walks, keep them in my pockets with new treasures I collect along the way.

— Kelly de la Rocha
The Promise

The tree falling up with the rising sun fills me. The copyright of constellations has given way to the morning where I tend to the composting of beloved messes. It's a fertile ground where she shares her roots with me and we uncover more resources to thrive, not merely survive. Where there is constriction and a blue sky I ache for, her veins branch out a web of protection reaching up so a million possibilities unite with purpose. With the rise and fall of seasoned air she exhales chlorophyll green and I breathe more freely. New patterns, new colors, new leaves like snowflakes, leave lasting impressions. It is this never-ending-life-giving cycle of falling up in the dark where the promise is kept.

— Ann Duvall

Autumnal

Ancient rocks hold sacred space
In September’s river flow
Untold tempests have effaced
Crag edges nimbly erased
Form sculpted bowls that bestow
A still splash of life encased
Amid her curling vertigo.

Deep into the sodden quag
I trod the withering phlox
Despite the temperate lag
A humus bed calls the stag
Scorpio sets back the clocks
And the sacred law crows brag
Of Autumnal equinox

Under the birch canopy
Fronds quiver probable cause
My sorrow, he’s here with me
He’s October’s effigy
Gilded confetti applause
Proclaims that he thinks of me
Beauty fades, fall’s menopause.

In November’s deference
In surging eventide suite
Before snowy days commence
O’er the underbrush sweet cadence
Of chartreuse and bittersweet
Resplendent hues of senescence
Obscure the path beneath my feet.

— Deborah Garcia

Charlotte, Fall Up

I was 23 when I fell up, but first, of course, I fell down. The extraordinary event happened just after a nurse pressed my arm with a needle. I heard the words “open and close your fist” and saw a red river flowing. Blackness. No weight, no friction, no thoughts, just some wonder at the sudden fall. Then, a blurry light switched on, and my body changed direction. I now fell up – up toward the light. It exuded warmth and safety, so I began falling up as fast as I could. A curt sound stopped me: “Bernice!” The noise came again, and my upward glide was over. I tumbled down, stopping right where I had started. Two tubes of blood on the table, two nurses leaning over me. A voice: “It’s all right; I was able to get the needle out before you fainted, so your donation is good.”

My new friend Charlotte sees darkness constantly because the macula in her 93-year-old eyes is breaking down. Her greatest fear is falling down in darkness. A walker on wheels, a motorized scooter, handsome and sturdy canes, grab bars – her apartment holds every apparatus designed to keep her upright. Rising from her sofa, she pushes hard against two canes, her legs spread in awkward ways. Her weary feet bend but hold her. “If I fall,” she says, “it is fatal.”

If you fall, I want to say, watch for the light. Then, fall up, Charlotte. Fall up.

— Bernice Stengle Johnson

Falling Up!

Getting out of a mess can be a beautiful thing. In 2010, my attorney-husband, Josh, was prosecuted for stealing from clients. He served a year in state prison. I figured it was the end of my life even though I’d had no knowledge of his criminal acts. I’d fallen from grace, too, for every sin I’d committed: the love affair with my female co-worker, my inability to prevent my husband’s addiction, the idea I’d always be taken care of. The list went on.

I’d felt my lowness keenly when I’d waited in the overheated visitor’s trailer at the county jail during the holidays, shoulder-to-shoulder with other family members, many with toddlers in snowsuits. My fall from grace continued as my beloved’s face and news of his crime were plastered all over the media.

cont.
FALLING up, cont.

Circumstances like these don’t just spring up. They descend slowly and painfully. And crawling from the wreckage—my falling up—took time. But little by little I separated my behavior and responsibilities from another’s. I wrangled my money and paid off debt. I wrote a book and started a money blog.

I fell up every time I stepped towards wholeness. Every time I recognized the woman good at taking care of herself and her children, who was determined and courageous. I fell up when I learned that anger and compassion cannot occupy the same space at the same time and, instead, tried forgiveness. I’m grateful for the beautiful mess. Without it, I never would’ve fallen up.

— Janet Lombardi

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 information, 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

Online
Friday, November 8 at 2 p.m. Eastern Tuesday, December 3 at noon Eastern Dates for Jan, Feb, Mar TBA
Free and open to all, these online writing webinars meet once a month. The spirit of these webinars is playful, with the intention to generate new writing and start to learn more about how our imaginations work. Come with an open mind and curious demeanor. Leave with a few new sentences (or pages) and a cool creative experience that supports you in “outside the box” thinking.
Katey Schultz katey.schultz@gmail.com

Columbus, OH
November 2, November 30, December 21
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Library
Meeting Room 3
4093 Cleveland Ave.
Free and open to all. We offer writers a supportive environment for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing. Each participant has an opportunity to share writing and other projects. You may read or bring copies of work you’d like to have critiqued; 4-5 copies are enough for us to share.
Jeanne Marlowe jamarlowe@juno.com (614) 476-8802

WRITERS SEEKING CIRCLES

Indianapolis, IN
Nonfiction, memoir, and women’s fiction writer is looking for a group.
Penny Davis pennyindy@comcast.net

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.
GET YOUR WORDS OUT THERE!

**IWWG Members’ Room on Facebook**
[www.facebook.com/groups/IWWGmembers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/IWWGmembers)

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

**IWWG Writers’ Cafe**
[www.iwwg.org/forum](http://www.iwwg.org/forum)

Participate in our interactive forum. Post your writing or questions and get feedback. If you get an error page at this link, it means you need to log in with your email and password; you’ll then find “Writers’ Cafe” in the drop-down menu under “News” in the navigation bar.

**FundsforWriters**
[http://fundsforwriters.com](http://fundsforwriters.com)


**Entropy**
[www.entropy.org](http://www.entropy.org)

Online magazine with a quarterly ‘where to submit’ section that lists presses, journals, anthologies, contests, residencies, and conferences that are currently open to submissions, or have deadlines coming up soon. They indicate what genres are accepted at each place, and any themes or special issues, if applicable. Contest listings include the entry fee, the award, and the judge. Similarly, for residencies or conferences, dates, deadlines, fees, and other relevant details are listed.

**Winning Writers**
[https://winningwriters.com](https://winningwriters.com)

Winning Writers has a monthly email newsletter you can sign up for, as well as an archive of their past newsletters. The newsletter is edited by Jendi Reiter, and includes a shout-out to subscribers with new publication credits, and even a literary-themed comic at the end.

**NewPages**
[www.newpages.com](http://www.newpages.com)

An excellent resource for magazine reviews (among other things), and also has a classified section where they post calls for submissions.

**Trish Hopkinson**
[https://trishhopkinson.com/category/call-for-submissions](https://trishhopkinson.com/category/call-for-submissions)

Trish Hopkinson posts submission calls regularly on her blog, focusing specifically on markets that don’t require a submission fee and/or pay writers for their work. The blog also features editor interviews and guest posts by journal editors.

**Poets & Writers**
[www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org)

Poets & Writers has a section of classified listings which they update every couple of months. It includes calls for submissions from journals, anthologies, contests, conferences, residencies, and more.

**The Review**
[www.thereview.net](http://www.thereview.net)

Review is similar to NewPages in concept—they review literary magazines and also have classified listings. Their blog includes interviews with writers and editors, and articles about publishing and the writing life.

**CRW Opps**
[https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CRWROPPS-B/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CRWROPPS-B/info)

The Creative Writers’ Opportunities List is a listserv run by poet Allison Joseph through Yahoo Groups. Subscribe as a daily digest and get just one daily email with 5-10 items—submission calls & contests, teaching gigs and residencies.