TOMORROW, TOGETHER

Before: Tomorrow was a busy workday, a time to catch up, a day to procrastinate.
Now: Tomorrow is the future, hope, social proximity, social justice.

Before: Alone was a break from the hectic pace, a measure of peace.
Now: We strive to stay connected, to be together, to hear each other.

Amidst the dark news of today, calls and emails from Guild members, instructors, and supporters bring me hope that tomorrow together is possible.

Empathetic emails from New York:
“I’m sad to hear we won’t be meeting this summer at the conference. But I certainly understand. So many things are out of our control. I’d like to apply my summer registration fee to the Guild’s Tomorrow Together Fund. Please accept the donation with my love.”

Compassionate calls from former members, who rejoin, and bring encouragement:
The Guild’s workshop weekend in Saratoga Springs had such an impact on me... I published my first book shortly after. I have made a donation to your Fund and want to know how I can support...

A young poet expresses despair today while reaching out for guidance tomorrow:
“And I wonder how much pain can one endure, glassy-eyed, shattered breath in a million American dreams? ... How many bruises can brown bodies take, how many bullet wounds? No, this is America... Where freedom is a privilege, a better life, a promise taken, tears are like sand, too many to count and there is but a whisper of independence...” – Asiyah H.

How is IWWG responding?
Your empathy, your compassion, and your words have inspired us to innovate. We launched our Tomorrow, Together Fund on May 1. By May 5, we had donations totaling nearly $22,000. We are on our way to fortifying our community through these crises. We are on our way to tomorrow, together.

IWWG’s “Summer Picnic for Writers” will kick off with our Open Mic event on June 7 followed closely by Judy Huge’s new 4-week Writing Your Tomorrows: Tools for Women in Transition workshop starting June 9.

Our goal is to raise money to make up for losses from the summer conference, but Tomorrow, Together strives for more: to commit to innovation, to highlight our dedicated instructors, to support our community of writers, to bring mentors to young poets like Asiyah. In these darkest of todays, we need more than ever to stay together to write our tomorrows.
Writing Your Tomorrows: Tools for Women in Transition with Judy Huge

Tuesdays, June 9, 16, 23 and 30
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern

$75 Member Price; $100 Nonmember Price
Special Discount: Become a Member and Take the Webinar for $135

SCHOLARSHIPS:
There are two more spaces available to those experiencing financial need, preference given to applicants coming from outside the United States

Contact Michelle@iwwg.org for scholarship consideration

As Susan Tiberghien says, in times of transition like these, “We get to cast off what has imprisoned us in the old order so we can enter the portals of our new tomorrows.” By digging inside our remembered pasts, our own personal Lost and Found Departments, we’ll use writing as a tool for uncovering the maps we’ll be needing to guide us into “our new tomorrows.” It’s said that the words author and authenticity share the same root, which means: genuine. This writing webinar uses writing as a tool for women seeking the most genuine form for the lives into which they will be emerging.

Judy Huge has spent over 30 years developing innovative approaches to both learning and writing. As president of her own national consulting firm, teacher of both undergraduate and graduate-level college courses, and director of writing workshops across the country, she has made a difference in the way thousands of people find, craft, and promote their writing voices. She is a co-author of 101 Ways You Can Help: How to Offer Comfort and Support to Those Who Are Grieving (Sourcebook, 2009), as well as A Middle Aged Woman and the Sea, a tale of loss and transition.

Judy Huge is donating the design and delivery of this special program as a gift to the Guild. Your discounted workshop fee of $75 is being wholly donated to the Guild’s Tomorrow, Together Fund as your gift to women’s lives and to the work of the Guild.
Welcome to the 2020 Summer Picnic for Writers!

Writing as Business Series
Mondays @7PM, June 15th

Choose the Best Publishing Option
Pitch Your Idea or Book
Contract Issues for Writers
Designing the Perfect Book Cover
Building Your Platform While Writing Your Book
Plan Your Book Launch
Protect Your Work
Your Story is Your Brand
Promoting Your Book
What Editors Want

REGISTER NOW

Writing Your Tomorrows: Tools for Women in Transition
4-Part Series
Tuesdays @11 AM, June 9-30

REGISTER NOW

SoulCollage®
Take Dictation from your Soul
3-Part Series
Wednesdays @3 PM, July 1, 15 & 29

REGISTER NOW

Special Programs
Wednesdays, July 8, July 22, Aug 12, Aug 26
Words of Protest, Words of Freedom
Life Writing
Writing for Kidlit
Writers Roadmap

REGISTER NOW

Lecture Series
Reading Like a Writer
Thurs @2 PM, June 18, July 16, Aug 20

REGISTER NOW

Free Events
OPEN MIC
Friday Free Writes

REGISTER NOW
HOT OFF THE PRESS

Linda Albert
Charting the Lost Continent
www.lindaalbert.net

Intimate and relatable, Linda Albert’s poetry collection is filled with feminine strength reflecting the universal themes and life passages of women. Charting the Lost Continent takes a deep dive into the global issues of female empowerment, self-acceptance, and gender equality—a relevant book for our times.


Lisa Braxton
The Talking Drum
https://lisabraxton.com/

The Talking Drum is a novel focusing on three couples and how they’re affected when an urban redevelopment project takes over an immigrant neighborhood. The Talking Drum explores intra-racial, class, and cross-cultural tensions, along with the meaning of community and belonging.


Raquel Arrechea
Quincy Quill is an adorable baby bird eager to chirp and ready to fly. But things aren’t happening as quickly as he would like. Will he learn to chirp? Is he ever going to be able to fly? This charming illustrated children’s book answers those questions and teaches children the value of perseverance.


Kris Bock
The Furrever Friends Cat Café Collection: A Furrever Friends Sweet Romance
http://www.krisbock.com/

Purrfect comfort reads! This series features the people and cats at a small-town cat café. These sweet romances leave you with the warm feeling of cuddling a purring cat. The collection includes Coffee and Crushes, Kittens and Kisses, and Tea and Temptation.


Christie A. Cruise, PhD
It Don’t Hurt Now: My Journey of Self-Love & Self-Acceptance
www.christieanncruise.com

It Don’t Hurt Now: My Journey of Self-Love & Self-Acceptance is a compilation of poems, journal excerpts, and reflections on life, love, pain, and healing that will serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement. This book for Black women and girls who are in the process of healing from colorism, sexual abuse, negative body image, and unhealthy relationships.


Penny Davis
Journey Girls 3
pennyindy@comcast.net

Journey Girls 3 is the unforgettable story about the power of women and their life-long friendships. Helping and healing it is the ultimate conclusion of family, friends, forgiveness and futures in Journey Girls 1 & 2 taking place in Savannah and Indianapolis.

Diane Dewey
Fixing the Fates
www.dianedewey.com

Gulf Coast author Diane Dewey’s memoir of family secrets, lies, and love: Adopted from a German orphanage, Diane was forty-seven when her Swiss biological father found her. She then discovered her German biological mother’s untold story. One part forensic investigation, one part self-discovery, Fixing the Fates resets her compass.

Patricia Moore
The Black Pearl Queen

Patricia fell in love with a pair of black pearls she bought on the island of Moorea, off Tahiti. Having recently left her job, she took husband’s suggestion, and decide to become a black pearl dealer. She was bombarded with questions about the black pearls everywhere she went. “Did you really go to Tahiti to get them?” “Why are they black?” “Why are they so expensive?” “How can you tell a real black pearl from a fake one?” So, she decided to write this book about black pearls.

Marilyn June Janson
Women Wronged: Discrimination, Repression, and Sexism From the 1960’s Until Now, an anthology.
www.janwrite.com

In this anthology, wise women tell poignant stories of their efforts to overcome discrimination, prejudice, repression, sexism, and marginalization in their lives. These authors give hope, discernment, and support to young women embarking on their own journeys today.

Constance Meccarello-Gerson
Summertime Murder at Hassle High
www.cmeccarello.com

Maria Cohen Bruno and Hunky Detective Joe Viola and the Nut Squad are again facing murder at Hassle High. Maria is debating her marriage and whether she should take Joe’s proposal seriously. This is the second cozy in the series.

Laurel McHargue
Dark Ebb: Grim Tales
https://leadvillelaurel.com/

A mysterious gift, tap shoes in a halfway house, alien orbs . . . and what’s in the basement? Laurel McHargue’s stories range from somber to surreal with splashes of dark humor as she explores life’s many dangers and the twisted, transformative power of love.

Kekelwa Nyaywa
The Reunion

The protagonist Felize, is undecided whether or not to attend the class reunion organized by former classmates. She finally goes. But when she finds out that attendees are expected to briefly talk about their lives since leaving school, she tearfully leaves the reunion gathering, pursued by a concerned former classmate.
Judith Prest

**After**

[www.spiritwindstudio.net](http://www.spiritwindstudio.net)

The poems in *After* are landmarks on a path to wholeness. These poems were part of my healing process from rape, a journey which has taken many years. I wrote *After* for other survivors and to anyone who wants to know something about overcoming traumatic life experiences.

Celia A Sorhaindo

**Guabancex**

[www.celiasorhaindo.com](http://www.celiasorhaindo.com)

In 2017, a category 5 hurricane hit the Caribbean island of Dominica. *Guabancex* explores the complex mix of experiences and emotions, both during and after the event. The ancient indigenous Taino peoples of the Caribbean, called the supreme female spiritual entity associated with all-natural destructive forces, *Guabancex*.

Samantha Shad

**The Write to Happiness: How to Write Stories that Change Your Brain and Your Life**

[www.samanthashad.com](http://www.samanthashad.com)

Learn how to use your writing to impact your readers and yourself. Shad provides exceptional guidance on how to write compelling stories. Then she demonstrates how that writing changes our brains and our lives. A brilliant book for writers, readers, and people who seek to be happier.

Marylou Kelly Streznewski

**Sitting in the Shade of My Own Tree**

Marylou Streznewski, a Guild member since 1996 and author of fiction, non-fiction and poetry chapbooks, has published her first full-length collection of poems. Myra Shapiro calls it, “the poetry of a strong woman, who brings grace and beauty to open our hearts to the familiar”.

Sue William Silverman

**How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences**


Silverman’s book is a joyously unconventional memoir written, in part, as a hedge against mortality. It will shake loose memories, invite you to ponder, make you laugh. It’s a marvelously written, imaginative, and seriously funny book.

Carren Strock

**Secret Survivors**

[www.carrentrock.com](http://www.carrentrock.com)

*Secret Survivors* is a gripping story about children trapped and struggling to stay alive when a blizzard hits the mountains of Colorado. This story is so vivid, that you’ll want to wrap yourself in a scarf, and pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate, before you’re halfway through the book. And don’t be surprised if you start crying when the rescue efforts begin. This is an unbelievably powerful story. The pages turn almost by themselves.
**MEMBER NEWS**

Linda Albert’s poem, First Thaw, is included in Voices Israel 2019: Poetry from Israel and Abroad. The Jerusalem Post calls this 45th anthology published by Voices Israel Group of Poets in English “enthralling.” Linda’s poem appears alongside the work of Israeli poets and other poets abroad writing in English. Read “First Thaw” at www.lindaalbert.net.

Suzi Banks Baum traveled to Gyurmi, Armenia for the Fourth Year of New Illuminations Artist Residency. The project teaches the book arts to an advanced group of Armenian women artists and introduce new participants to hand bound books made in the Coptic and Armenian binding styles. With New Illuminations, Baum is helping to build a creative community and creating professional opportunities for Armenian Women artists to sell books and to teach workshops. This project strikes a light in a dark corner of Armenia and the books the women make blaze new trails for the artists. www.suzibanksbaum.com

Beth Cash has two poems accepted for publication in the spring issue of Blueline. It is a literary magazine that reflects the spirit of the Adirondacks and is published by SUNY Potsdam.

Christie A. Cruise, PhD. Christie’s “Colorism in the Black Community” was included in a new publication, Gumbo Magazine, released in February 2020. https://gumbomedia.com/magazine

Kelly DuMar Two of Kelly’s “ice images”, taken on the Charles River last winter, “Celestial Dancers,” and “Ice Abstract Swan Lake” are featured in this wonderful journal, 3 Elements Review: the “3 elements” theme changes for every issue. The elements for this issue were: “Rorschach Test, Zigzag and Haven.” Lots of beautiful art & writing here! http://www.3elementsreview.com/.../3elements-review-spring-jo...

Aine Greaney is among this year’s lineup for participating writers and instructors at the Hobart Festival of Women Writers in September. Most recently, she developed and delivered a virtual version of her workshop, “Writing for Stress Release and Wellness”, which she has delivered to the North Shore Cancer Resource (MA) and the nonprofit, Facing History and Ourselves (Boston and LA).

MaryAlice Hostetter has published an Op-Ed Essay, “I Had To Decide Whether To Recommend My Rapist Be Paroled During The Pandemic,” on Huffpost a couple days ago, which she completed after taking Maureen Murdock’s “Women Writing to the World” webinar, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/rapist-parole-covid-19-prison_n_5ec6f84ac5b635450f38142a

Trish Hopkinson’s poem “Resurrection Party” was published by Voicemail Poems in February, they are open for submissions year-round https://soundcloud.com/voicemailpoems/resurrection-party-trish

Patricia Moore’s story about sailing through the Panama Canal with her husband on their sailboat Hope and Glory was published in the January issue of SAIL Magazine.

Anna Mae Perillo’s first chapbook “Inheritance of Courage and Fear” has been accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press with a projected release date of October 2020. A short play she wrote during the Play Lab at last summer’s IWWG Summer Conference, “Marianna and the Wild Boars” was accepted for production by the Manhattan Reparatory Theatre.

Maggie Smith, whose debut novel Truth & Other Lies will be published in Spring 2021, is now a monthly blogger for Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Association. Her first post (on Writer’s Block) appeared Dec. 17 in the RMFW News Feed.

Susan Tiberghien has recorded three online courses at the Jung Society of Washington: “Journaling to the Soul,” “Seeing Beauty with Words,” “Through Darkness to Light,” available at www.jung.org/online-courses. Due to the coronavirus, Susan’s spring workshops and lectures will now be offered online. She will also be giving online presentation for the annual conference, Jung in the Hudson, July 23, “Rekindling the Soul, Imagining a New Tomorrow.”

Carmen K. Welsh, Jr.’s science fiction short story CATCHING FEELS was accepted for Kyanite Press in their Vol2 Issue 2 Amazing Journeys and Exotic Destinations https://kyanitepublishing.com/kyanitepress/
GIVING VOICE

Bethsheba Awuor

Tomorrow never dies
Tomorrow is a New gift
Of Hope
For another adventure
Another Experience
New Plans
To Come to Fruition.

Tomorrow is there
To toast for the future
Another Experience to Come to being
Tomorrow is a city
That cannot be hidden.

Tomorrow is a new journey
Of new possibilities
Newness of Everything
Ever and ever.

Diana Eden

I was taught by my mother not to start too many sentences with “I”.

I couldn’t understand why.

I had things I wanted to say.

“I, used too often,” she would say,

“will make you appear self-centered.”

I, being a good girl, trained myself to turn my focus elsewhere.

“A lady never draws attention to herself,” she said.

But I must have warmed to the spotlight
as I sprung from my mother’s womb.

I, I am told, gave queenly waves from my English pram
to enthralled passers-by.

Since then I’ve only taken the center spot
while performing on the stage
And now I dress the others who take the center ring
I have not often bragged about my triumphs,
I’ve kept my thoughts and needs inside, and
I’ve not made my deepest feelings known.

But no man is an Island,
And I am feeling isolated in this non-I-land.

I am many decades old and think it’s time to value not what
I was taught, but what I know.
I will now loudly speak my mind’s thoughts, my heart’s feelings,
I will express freely the passions of this fiery redhead, and
I will try a little more to care a little less what others think of
I BELIEVE IN TOMORROW
Deborah Garcia

Another day
Befalls the dark
Chimes awaken
Dogs’ fearless bark
Ere long the sun
Flares Earth in light
Growing seeds
Hope feeds on night
Imminent tales
Jog dreams of more
Keeping the faith
Lest close the door
Morrow, now’s past
New birth shall be
Opening wide
Potential-ly
Quivering thoughts
Resound again
Spirits of yore
Tomorrow’s kin
Under the veil
Vie unafraid
Where promise waits
X-ing the grayed
Your path of fates
Zen-erates

A PROMISE
By Bernice Stengle Johnson

“Yes, I believe in tomorrow.” Her voice couldn’t mask a hint of impatience. “Why do you ask?”

He smiled lightly at her sudden peevishness. “Because if you believe in tomorrow, then you will understand the answer I will give to your first question. You asked about how you could be certain that these seeds will grow.”

She shifted, her credit card in her hand, impatient to pay.

“The trickiest part is the first phase, germination.”

“You new plants,” he patted the packages of seeds on the counter, “will need light, oxygen, a good temperature, and especially water to cause them to sprout. Plant each seed in a small container – an egg carton with do. In a few weeks, after the weather improves, you can move your seedlings outside. Yes, they will grow without a problem, but only if you give them care each day. Your care is the promise that keeps them alive. If you grow plants, you must always believe in tomorrow.”

She nodded silently and gathered her purchases: Six seed packets printed with colorful pictures of various flowers, a set of pricey gardening tools, a bag of deep chocolate potting soil, and bright green gloves that had the right color and a mid-range price. She had wanted all her life to grow flowers; finally, she had the tools, the time, the place. Would she be able to do it?

As she walked to her car, she thought about how she had to repair her shaky confidence many times in the past year. She had moved from a high-rise apartment in the city to a duplex in a sleepy community many miles away. A different job, a change in friends, a routine that was not yet normal. I did it, she thought, I found a new life.

She dropped the shopping bag and potting soil in her trunk, smiling at the thought of several growing pots filled with thin, fragile, green stems. “By summer, you will be flowers,” she announced, closing the lid firmly.

At the traffic light, the storeowner’s words crept into her thoughts. “I am a gardener, and I will care for these seeds so they sprout and grow,” she heard herself say. “So, yes,” she added with conviction, “I believe in tomorrow.”
I SIT BY THE LIGHTHOUSE
By Roberta S. Kuriloff ©

A wild deer licks my fingers, chewing an apple in my hand. Trusting, unafraid of humans in this place where killing is not allowed.

Children build fairy houses in the woods with bark and moss, seaweed and stones, pinecones and seashells discovered along the paths. Homes for elves. Giving back to the earth.

I sit by the lighthouse overlooking the village below, sun on the green-blue ocean. A black pilot whale glides in and out oblivious to the ferry boat nearby. Trusting.

A small island sits across from the town on a submerged mountain.

A child asks, are all islands on top of mountains?

I tell her, mountain ranges lay beneath the surface of the ocean. Some stand waiting millions of years to rise.

Humans are now flooded by Covid-19, waiting for a cure, fearful.

Hoping. Praying.

I sit by the lighthouse, trusting, remembering the child within.

Believing in tomorrow, many tomorrows.

I BELIEVE IN TOMORROW
Evelyn Crawford Rosser

I believe in tomorrow. I see it as a chance to receive blessings that I have never seen. It will be a vacant canvas on which I can create a magnificent masterpiece. Believing that tomorrow will offer new opportunities, I strive to live in the moment. I forgive those who trespass against me. I forgive myself for making immature decisions, procrastinating, and not taking advantages of opportunities because I was too timid to get out of my comfort zone. I forgive myself for staying in a physically and emotionally abusive marriage for twenty-three years. I forgive myself for embracing all the pain I endured over the years and not celebrating all the beautiful people who have nurtured me. I forgive myself!

At seventy-six, I still believe in tomorrow because it represents the unknown. I don’t know what’s out there for me, but I am willing to take it on. Tomorrow is my chance to create a new beginning by letting go of the past. Tomorrow is an opportunity for me to create new goals, to acquire more wisdom, to seek new adventures, and to just enjoy life abundantly. It is my opportunity to explore who I am and to become the best me.

THESE CHARACTERS BELIEVE IN TOMORROW
By Laurel Schmidt

The Scene: A group of characters are looking down from the afterlife and debating the wisdom of reincarnating back into a world in crisis. The main speakers are Samuel Smiles, author of the 19th century best-seller, Self-Help, and Olympe de Gouge, feminist activist in the French Revolution who wrote The Declaration of the Rights of Women and was executed by guillotine for criticizing the government.

“Maybe our time is over. Everything has to end at some point,” said the scribe. “Countless civilizations far greater than our own—the Incas and Aztecs, Persians, Mesopotamians, the Greeks, the ancient Chinese. All gone.”

“My point, exactly,” Smiles cried. “We humans have survived devastating setbacks. History has proven that over and over. Who could have imagined in the depths of the plague-ridden Dark Ages that there would be a Renaissance?”

“Or believe that a mob of women furious about the price of bread could lead a march that would catapult a king off his throne and fuel the French revolution?” Olympe added.

“Or imagine the Beatles while listening to Lawrence Welk?” the Fool said. “We humans have the ability to overcome even the worst of our follies.”

Smiles was now in full evangelizing mode, striding back and forth as if addressing a crowd of Victorian shopkeepers and coal miners. “We must embrace our fate. Return to the world, join the others and carry on. Life is a gift and the appropriate response is gratitude, not despair.”
THEY SAY YOU HAVE TO WRITE ALONE

by the “Writerlies”—Jennifer Wortham, Janet Lombardi, and Lisa Freedman

Ten years ago, Janet, Jennifer, and Lisa (now known as The Writerlies) decided to challenge the idea that they had to write alone. They started connecting by phone to help each other get writing and keep writing. This week, during their morning phone session, they devoted an hour to talking about anti-black racism, police violence, and their shared desire to show up in ways that move the long arc “of the moral universe... toward justice.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Connecting by phone or Zoom is a great way to give and receive support as we find our ways out of sheltering in place and as we witness and engage with a broken, restless world. And it’s easy to do...

How our “Writing Together” Method Works

First, we schedule a date and time to meet. Mornings tend to be best for us. At the appointed hour, we connect through a conference call and decide our schedule — How long will we check in? write? read our work and give feedback?. We take turns checking in. Over the years, we have held each other through lots of calamities and triumphs through these short but reliable updates and sharings.

Usually our meetings last two hours – and we often stay tethered the whole time. We’ve also been amazed by how fortifying it can be to convene for half an hour. And real writing gets done because we help each other focus. In terms of feedback, it’s optional. Generally, we each ask for comments tailored to our own needs. “All praise all the time” might be just right for a first draft. A specific request like please find three gems in this piece — à la Dorothy Randall Gray — works as well. For writing that’s further along, we might ask where a sentence or section could be unpacked.

Six Steps to Starting Your Own Group

1. Identify your writing buddy or buddies.
2. Schedule a date and hour.
3. Make the call. (Conference call if you’re more than two.)
4. Agree upon a time frame. You may want to set aside three to ten minutes per person to check in, especially as you’re getting to know each other. Then allow as much time as possible for writing. Add another ten or fifteen minutes per person to read and get feedback.
5. Start writing.
6. End with careful listening and feedback.
Who Are the Writerlies?

Before I (Janet) found the IWWG and Jennifer and Lisa as my writing buddies, I always thought I had to write alone. And if I wasn’t producing stellar work, the fault was mine. I wasn’t disciplined enough, talented enough. I wasn’t a real writer, just a dabbler with potential. Then my writing life changed. Nothing has helped me finish essays, poems, and my memoir like the Writierlies—always a phone call away. And I’ve learned so much! How other people write, for one.

Jennifer brings the past into the present seamlessly and Lisa’s writing displays a deep sensuousness and lyricism. Above all, I’ve learned to trust myself as a writer, as Jennifer and Lisa hold the space filled with love and encouragement.

My memoir, Bankruptcy: A Love Story, was published by Heliotrope Books in 2017. Other writing has appeared on salon.com, dailybeast.com, newsweek.com, and Newsday. Please visit me at www.janetlombardi.com.

Last year I (Lisa) wrote a piece called “Dear José” for the HIV Howler. I struggled with the process because the writing led me to confront my own denial and prejudices. Writing with Jennifer and Janet kept me going. They understand how hard writing can be, they asked smart questions, and they made me feel like my words mattered.

Lisa Freedman earned her MFA from the New School, where she now teaches “Starts in Silence: A Meditation and Writing Workshop.” She finds that bringing these two practices together leads to deep listening, not only to self but to others and to the world. She founded Breathe/Read/Write in 2016. Her writings have appeared in Satya Magazine, Shambhala Times, and the anthology Resist Much Obey Little: Inaugural Poems to the Resistance among others. See more at LFWritingCoach.com.

If I (Jennifer) were a book of recipes, my title would be Slow Cooking. My writing life has been a long apprenticeship. Natalie Goldberg asks in Wild Minds: Living the Writer’s Life, who gave you permission? My answer is Lisa and Janet. They continually reach for the best in me and have buoyed me during moments of self-doubt. With them, I have learned to unpack and go deeper, to free write by hand when stuck and instead of sweating the tough spots to always remain curious.

Jennifer Wortham has been published in Newsline, The Globe and Mail and The Sun Magazine. Last Night Oscar Wilde Went to Reading Gaol, co-written with Helen Alexander, won first place in The Northern Virginia Theatre Alliance. A memoir piece appears in What We Talk about When We’re Over 60, Deeds Publishing, 2014. She is now crafting a narrative memoir about her role as a social worker in a New York City psychiatric ER.