Mel is one of many talented instructors guiding you in releasing your voice into the world on March 15 at our California Dreaming Regional Conference as well as the 38th Annual Summer Conference, July 24-31.

The voice, the voice, the ever-shushed voice. It is the most primal of wars: the irrepressible need to speak battling another voice that says, Shush, Mel, shush!

Some children scream to be heard while others silently rage in longing for the same ear. I was of the latter type until I found the theatre and detonated as an actor. Locating my emotional instrument wasn't a tough search. Releasing my voice was a cinch. If anything, directors asked me to take it down a level and steered me into a gentler persona. That took serious introspection on my part. It was a challenge to find the kind side. When one considers a grenade, mildness doesn't come to mind. I'd been shushed to the point...
of explosion.

In the Canadian home where I was raised, the only daughter and eldest child of three, competition reigned. My mother couldn’t resist outdistancing me as she sought favor from my father, teachers and friends. She liked to lean over my skinny shoulders and rearrange my Scrabble tiles into better words. She took pleasure in solving the problems in my math homework. And boy could she grab my softball and show me how to pitch. It was my place to step back and let it happen. It was my duty to be quiet. I see now how pathetically our roles were played, but tender spots remain when it comes to my relations with other women. I duck away from women, especially groups of them, because of my presentiment that there may be competition. I was carefully trained and now struggle to undo what I was taught: Women can’t be trusted.

I left Vancouver at eighteen and moved across the country. I lived in Stratford and Toronto. I moved to New York City and now live in Los Angeles. Always, always in search of a place to put my voice.

I yearn to be the enigmatic force in a room. The quiet, serene woman who speaks rarely, yet magnificently. The tall and elegant

Morning Workshops
9:30 am -12:30 pm

Dorothy Randall Gray
Writing From Your Sacred Source

Judith Searle
Taking Your Writing to a New Level through the Enneagram

Maureen Murdock
The Art of Memoir Writing

Myra Shapiro
The Poetry of Endings and Beginnings

Afternoon Workshops
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Amy Friedman
True or Truer: Where Memoir and Fiction Cross Paths and Diverge

Judy Huge
Finding Your Way: Writing as a Guide to Transition

Linda Bergman
So You Think Your Life’s a Movie?

Mel Ryane
From Page to Podium: Reading Your Work Aloud

California Dreaming Regional Conference
March 15
Antioch University Los Angeles
400 Corporate Pointe
Culver City, California 90230

Be part of our story! The IWWG, rising under new wings while offering the same lift you know so well to women writers of all ages and stages, invites you to the first of a series of regional conferences: California Dreaming.

Plan now to join friends old and new on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Antioch University Los Angeles for this stellar lineup of workshops and networking opportunities! For this one, wonderful day, we have eight of the IWWG’s beloved workshop directors coming together in California and you are invited to be part of this spectacular inaugural event.

Registration now open at https://www.regonline.com/IWWGCaliforniaDreaming2015

Nonmember rate - $150
Early Bird Rate - $135**
**Early price ends on 2/19/2015 11:59 PM (PST). Standard price of $150.00 starts on 2/20/2015 12:00 AM (PST)

IWWG Member rate - $125
(CURRENT MEMBERS ONLY! Enter code IWWGMember. Subject to verification.)
expresser of few but wildly important words. Well, it ain't going to happen. I am short. I am loud. I am busy with words. I am a soldier in the shushing war, and wear the cicatrices of combat: self-doubt with a red face. I write, I speak, then question the validity of my words, but I cannot shut up. The war continues.

It took eight years of my good friend, Heather Cariou, advocating the IWWG before I got my body on a plane, on a train and on a bus with all those women. I resisted and wriggled until my voice, in desperate need, dragged me forth.

In my first class, with Susan Tiberghien, I found a home in her practical approach. It appealed to me. I looked down at the blank page of my notebook, took a breath and wrote with only the slightest of prompts from Susan. This was a strange thing for me. How, with only a tiny pebble from some Swiss river, could Susan have started me writing so much, so fast and so coherently? The simple answer, of course, is that I was so ready. I was prepped for the nudge and I was hungry to be heard.

I love to read stories of other writers writing. Of how they tone and encourage their voices to the page. I'm bewildered when some writers bemoan their late entrance to the art of composition and to the game of publishing. In a New Yorker article, Alexandra Styron lamented her first publication at the age of thirty-four. I recently attended a writer's salon where a memoirist, with raised eyebrows, told me her first book was published at the far-flung age of forty-two. Ah, well....

The age thing is another war. An unwinnable conflict and not worth the time it takes to shine up the armor, but I worry, late at night, because I want time. I want all that time back; my readiness is now.

Onstage I roared convincingly in plays both classical and modern. My voice rang out with the words of Shakespeare, Coward, Shaw, Williams and Simon. Only once, over a twenty-plus year career, one woman playwright...interesting.

As an actor, I dallied with the idea of writing. Even the busiest of actors has a great deal of downtime and I had things to say. I toyed with writing. I was even encouraged by television writers to submit work, and when I did I was further encouraged to seek an agent...at which point I would stop dead. I couldn't trust that I would ever be good enough as a writer. Shakespeare, Shaw, Coward....I know good.

Here's the thing: It doesn't matter. The voice wants forum. The voice doesn't care a lick what the head knows. At my computer it doesn't matter how old I am, or how good I am. The clock ticks and opportunity does not give heed to whining.

In 1998, I wrote a script for a short film and was accepted into a prestigious filmmaking program at the American Film Institute. Its Directing Workshop for Women accepts only eight candidates a year and I was honored to be chosen.

Another war. I had to raise money and find a crew to make my movie. I had to face the greatest of fears to command a ship with the confidence required of a film director. And worst, I had to study and experiment in a class of all women. Competition loomed.
Writing Out Loud, continued

Competition dripped from the ceiling, ran down the walls and slithered into my lap. I did my regular dance of sidestepping and wandering away, which only exacerbated the problem. I didn't join in with others. I was too afraid and didn't know how.

Nevertheless, I made my movie. I led my crew, directed my actors using the script I'd written, and surmounted my fears. Was it a coincidence that my film was the story of a mother competing with her daughter over a poetry writing assignment? I think not.

I started writing screenplays. I learned the structure and hammered out scripts but, with the exception of one, they were entirely awful. This was not my voice and my heart sank when I realized the corset of screenwriting was not a good fit for me. What to do?

I had left my acting career. The directing career I wanted fell away from the horizon and I was lost. I was at sea, in a small boat, with a big voice and nothing else. Or so I thought.

In 2005, I had an idea to give voice to others, to children. By taking the one thing I knew very well, the theatre, and offering it to kids, I could at the very least do something constructive. As a volunteer, I started

The Shakespeare Club, which introduced the Elizabethan period and the Bard's plays to children who had never seen a play, let alone performed in one, let alone Shakespeare.

The following summer, in 2006, I was on a plane to New York City, followed by a train to the IWWG's summer conference. I had something to say. I wasn't sure what or how, but I was ready to squawk, that much was clear. I needed to write so badly that I willed myself to mingle with other women and lo...the shock...alas, the surprise...I could not and did not see or smell competition.

On the contrary, I watched women boost, inspire and applaud each other. In classes they shared their stories, dreams and cravings. In corners, over lunch, they read their work aloud to one another. They fed each other wine, cheese and optimism. This was revelatory to me and I stepped into the world of the writing conference as if wading freely into the Caribbean. I floated, swam and played. Lightly buoyant and open, I found a long-sought trust.

In Eunice Scarfe's class I wrote, but made a promise that was all I would do...just write, not read my work aloud...not raise my hand, not open my mouth....Shush, Mel, shush.

In Susan Tiberghien's class, I duplicated the vow. In Marsha McGregor's class, same deal. Write it down, that's enough, no one needs to

Spring Big Apple Conference

April 25 - 26
Scandinavia House
58 Park Ave
New York, NY 10016

- Saturday -

Writing and Rewriting Your Life Stories (from Journaling to Personal Essay to Memoir) with Susan Tiberghien

Join Susan Tiberghien in a full day of finding, crafting, and polishing the stories from your life that you’d like to keep. Leave with a life story that you are ready to share. Surprise yourself.

- Sunday -

The Brand Called You: Defining Your Writer’s Career in the Today’s Market with Melissa Rosati

‘Why buy your book?’ ‘What makes you worth a follow on your blog, Twitter, or Facebook?’ The first step to building or refining your brand is to understand the “big picture,” of marketing and distribution in today’s publishing environment.

Also…Member Author Panel & Book Fair; Meet the Agents Panel & Pitch Session

Registration begins soon!
Writing Out Loud, continued

hear.

Then: Up my arm flew of its own accord, and there I was, standing and reading in class, in the auditorium, in the bathroom, in the bedroom....Oh, for crying out loud...I was crying out loud.

When Myra Shapiro asked to hear my stories of The Shakespeare Club, I shared them. In the telling, I discovered there was a story to be told. I went home and wrote a book. The next year I had an agent. The next year I wrote a novel. The next year a travel memoir. The next year I created my blog: Teaching Will: The Shakespeare Club and then a second novel.

I learned that Dorothy Randall Gray also lived in Los Angeles and taught workshops. I signed up and read pages from the memoir I was writing. Dorothy taught me how to edit my work and how to write lean. I’d bring in eleven pages and she’d say, "Good, now get it down to seven." When I brought in seven, she’d say, "Better, now get it down to four."

"Cripes, Dorothy!" I cried. "I'm writing a book, not a pamphlet."

But she was right.

In 2007, Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli gave me some private time and we sat side by side on a bench on the sunny college campus. I wanted her notes on the opening of my novel.

After reading aloud to her, Elizabeth looked at me and said, "Well, you can write, can't you?"

Here's what I know, Elizabeth: I could weep in your lap for that comment.

Dorothy Randall Gray invited her students to read their work in front of audiences in Los Angeles and I participated three times.

When I rode the waves of Shakespeare or Shaw I was carried on genius. Reading my own words introduced me to a brand-new terror and subsequent wallop of joy. This was a perfect marriage of my actor-self and writer-self taking a high-flying leap. This was true ownership and my voice reveled in it.

So, why?

Why should I get up and read my work aloud?

And rehearse? Over and over, alone in my room, getting the friggin' time right. Three minutes. And I have to decide...a poem, the novel, the memoir, funny, not funny? Why?

Because. Because, when the pen hits the paper and the words drop out, one after another, into sentences, phrases, paragraphs...no matter good or bad, or rife with clichés — it is art. Risky, temperamental, personal art meant for public consumption. We write to be read, to be heard, to be acknowledged. On stages, in auditoriums, on canvases, in recording booths, on streets and at those dinner parties: "Oh my God, I'm a little drunk, it's true, but you guys have to hear this!"

Because...when we shut it away, close it up, tuck it in a drawer and walk off, it weeps the tears of the dismissed. Those words fade, crumple, die and we will have committed an act of cruelty.

Because the rush, the thrill of sliding to the finish when we speak our work aloud, is — here comes the cliché — better than sex.

Because it is art and art is meant to be shared, to be given away and given up.

Unleashed. No shushing. The war is over. The competition does not exist. Imagine a world with too many wonderful women writers. Not possible.

Imagine my world, where little kids find voice in big language and earn the respect of grown-ups. In my world, time is merely a commodity that I spend freely.

Maybe I'm diving in late when it comes to a writing career, but, oh, the rush, the wind and the heavenward cry: There is so much to be said, in my loud voice. That's just the way it comes out.

Mel's bio on page 6
Mel Ryane started her career in the arts when she joined the Actors' Equity Association at the age of eighteen. She went on to perform on stages across Canada and the U.S., including the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, the Shaw Festival, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Old Globe Theatre. At Stratford she received the Tyrone Guthrie Award, which, along with a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, allowed her to study with legendary Broadway actress and teacher Uta Hagen. As a writer, Mel had her play "Titanic Twice" performed at the du Maurier World Stage Festival, and her screenplay "On the Head of a Pin" earned semi-finalist honors in the prestigious Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting competition. In expanding her focus to include teaching, Mel served as a dialogue and acting coach on the acclaimed television comedy "Seinfeld" as well as several feature films. In 2005, Mel volunteered to start The Shakespeare Club, an after-school program for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. A memoir of her harrowing and hilarious first year, "Teaching Will: What Shakespeare and 10 Kids Taught Me That Hollywood Couldn't" (Familius) was recently published.

Mel teaches Shakespeare workshops in schools and her workshop for writers, PAGE TO PODIUM: Reading Your Work Aloud across the continent.

Upcoming Events & Information

Our Online Database Brings You Exciting Advantages!

You can now check the status of your membership, update your information, and access member-only content by logging in to: https://iwwg.wildapricot.org

For first-time access, you will need to reset your password. Keep in mind that if you are a current member and your email is not recognized, try using an alternate email, as that may be the one we have on file for you.

For any questions, comments, or issues, contact Kristin at: iwwgquestions@gmail.com

Are you one of the 126 IWWG members who have joined the new member-only Facebook Group?

This member-only IWWG group is a community to share writing resources, support for helping each other develop as writers, pose writing-related questions, and share writing-related events, publications, activities, achievements, challenges and concerns. If you haven't joined the group, and you are an IWWG member, we hope you will!

Visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWWMembers/ and request to join. Within a day or so, your membership will be approved, and you'll be welcome to connect with passionate women writers who want to hear your stories, share your concerns, your accomplishments and your questions about developing as a writer. Hope to see you there!

IWWG EVENTS & INFO

March 15
California Dreaming: The IWWG West Coast Regional Conference
Visit https://www.regonline.com/IWWGCaliforniaDreaming2015 for registration and full details
Discounted pricing for IWWG Members!

April 25 - 26
Spring Big Apple Registration begins soon at https://iwwg.wildapricot.org/events

July 24 - 31
2015 Summer Conference Wisdom House Litchfield, Connecticut
Instructors announced on page 1
More details to follow on www.iwwg.org and via email communications.

IWWG Welcomes New Board Members

Dixie King, Hope Player, and Raquel Arrechea have joined IWWG’s Board of Directors. The current Board is now as follows:
Raquel Arrechea, Lynne Barrett, Susanne Davis, Judith Huge, Dixie King, Sheila Levine, Anna Murray, and Hope Player.
Upcoming Events & Information, continued

Member Events

February 28, March 28, April 25
A Time to Honor Our Individual Journeys
JungHaus, 59 W. Third Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201
4th Saturday, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
A space for asking questions and hearing different perspectives
Communicating is more than writing. Bring your photography, art, music, dance, dream, writing (3-5 minutes), or simply enjoy what emerges from informal multimedia group process when we express what matters to us. Free for members of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (www.iaco.org), the Jung Association of Central Ohio (jungcentralohio.org), and the International Women’s Writing Guild. All three groups bring exemplary practices that honor diversity and enrich understanding of our common humanity.
For more information contact Lynne Hodge, lhodge107@gmail.com or Jeanne Marlowe, jamarlowe@juno.com, 614-476-8802

March 7
Fourth Annual “Out of the Mouths of Babes” at Berkshire Festival of Women Writers
Dewey Memorial Hall
Sheffield, MA
7:00 pm
In this fourth year of Out of the Mouths of Babes, a variety of writers and performers will illuminate the iconic “village” of people who help raise families – however imperfect. Whether rural or urban, many mothers live in community but experience relative isolation. The quest of Out is to “take the maternal out of the kitchen and into the world” to inspire, maintain, and celebrate the community-supported creative life of women.
A $10 suggested donation at the door will help fund the production as well as support the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. Pajamas are perfect attire.
To learn more, contact Suzi at (413) 429-1799 or suzi@laundrylinedivine.com

April 17 - May 5
Workshops with Susan Tiberghien
Susan Tiberghien’s annual spring tour of workshops will include:
April 17 - CG Jung Society of Washington DC
April 25 - IWWG Big Apple, NYC
April 28 - RJ Julia Bookstore, Madison, CT
May 1 - CG Jung Institute, Newton, MA
May 2 & 3 - Muse and Marketplace, Boston, MA
May 5 - CG Jung Foundation, NYC.
Details at www.susantiberghien.com

June 1 – June 6
8th Annual Wyoming Literature & Landscape Of The Horse retreat
A 6-day writing retreat for anyone who yearns for nature, longs to reconnect with horses, and hungers for creative inspiration in authentic western ranch setting. Perfect place to ride, write, reflect and renew! Includes food, lodging, wranglers, horses, professional writing facilitation. As featured in Forbes. Only a few spaces remain.
http://www.pagelambert.com/horse_literature.html

September 21 – 26
18th Annual River Writing Journey for Women with Page Lambert
On the River of Discovery with Women of Influence
Moab, Utah
A 6-day rafting retreat for women entering the crossroads of their lives—professionally, artistically, personally—the perfect time and place to inspire creative change. Featuring Special Guest Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the Denver-based American Indian College Fund. Destination: The Majestic Canyons of Utah’s Green River, $1799 ~ 6 days, 5 nights. Rediscover the story of your life. Watch the future you desire unfold. As featured in O magazine. Registration open.
http://www.pagelambert.com/river2015
The Art of Memoir Writing  
by Maureen Murdock

Memoir often gets confused with autobiography and biography. Memoir is not a linear autobiography factually recounting a fully lived life from birth to fame, but rather a selected aspect of the writer’s life, written from her point of view. Rather than simply recounting an incident or memory from her life, the memoirist both tells the story and tries to make meaning out of it. That’s why I call memoirists our contemporary mythmakers. They answer such universal questions as: Who am I? What is my Journey? What is my Tribe? and What is my Purpose?

Writing a memoir requires a level of truth telling and self-revelation not required from other forms of writing. Memoir is one version of a truth, from the writer’s perspective, at a discrete moment in time. The memoirist recounts the incidents in her life to the best of her recollection yet memoir does not claim perfect accuracy of the remembered event. The art of memoir writing is the process of struggling for the emotional truth of the memory, finding perspective, and making meaning of that particular slice of a life. In the process, the writer’s consciousness is changed. The memoir presupposes that there is a certain unity to human experience— that we all share similar hopes, dreams and desires. When a writer recounts a memory about herself, she is talking about all of us to some degree.

What’s important in crafting a memoir is the details you can remember. If you can’t remember the exact details ask someone else who was there or write what sticks in your mind. The rest will follow. Look at family photos, listen to music of the era you’re trying to remember, watch movies from the years you’re writing about, look at old newspapers, read old diaries, old letters.

You might have to write a lot of useless memories before you get to the ones that really matter. And what really matters anyway? That’s the question, isn’t it? In Poets and Writers, Sven Birkerts wrote that when he started to write memoir the events that he thought were important and should have left the greatest impression—trips, moves, friendships, deaths—were not those that had left the greatest impression on his memory. It’s often the small events that store the greatest truth.

“Writing a memoir requires a level of truth telling and self-revelation not required from other forms of writing.”

We all have a personal narrative that shapes our view of the world and ourselves and we don’t make that conscious until we write it down. The beauty of writing memoir is that the writer begins to understand his or her life more fully. You cannot remain unaffected by reliving events that happened perhaps decades ago. Memoir offers the writer, and at times the reader, catharsis, new insights, rediscovery, and healing. When we tell our story and tell it well, in a way that reflects the universal experience of being human, we become a part of each other.

Come write memoir with Maureen at the California Dreaming Regional Conference, March 15 and the 38th Annual Summer Conference, July 24-31.

Maureen Murdock, PhD, M.F.T. has taught creative writing for the past 25 years at the UCLA Extension Writers’ Program, where she received the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1995. She teaches memoir classes weekly in Santa Barbara and leads workshops for women internationally. Murdock is the author of Unreliable Truth: On Memoir and Memory, a guide to memoir writing, as well as The Heroine’s Journey: Woman’s Quest for Wholeness; Fathers’ Daughters: Breaking the Ties that Bind; Spinning Inward: Using Guided Imagery with Children; Monday Morning Memoirs: Women in the Second Half of Life and The Heroine’s Journey Workbook. She recently published a Kindle short entitled The Emergence of Bipolar Disorder: A Mother’s Perspective. Her blog about creativity, mental illness, and the criminal justice system can be found at www.maureenmurdockblog.com. Her website is: www.maureenmurdock.com
Hot Off the Presses!

Congrats to our recently published members!

If you have a book that was published within the last year or has an upcoming publication date, let us know at iwwgmembernews@gmail.com with subject “Member Pub.”

Please provide a 50-word or less book description, publisher, pub date, author website, and link to where your book is sold.

Chris Eboch
Bandits Peak

A teenage boy meets strangers hiding in the mountains and gets drawn into their mystery. But when he discovers their true purpose, will he risk his life to expose them? Readers who enjoyed Gary Paulsen’s Hatchet will love Bandits Peak. For ages 10 and up.

Pig River Press, January 2015
http://www.chriseboch.com/

Dana McIntyre
Home is Where Your Mom Is

This hit essay collection was inspired by the day-to-day life in Dana’s newly blended family. With her son leaving college to join the Fire Department, her step-son moving in permanently, plus camping, yard-work, Girl Scouts, step-parenting future Mensa members, and arguing with her husband about why Flash Gordon is the best movie of our lifetime, life around the McIntyre household always feels like a roller coaster ride.

CreateSpace, October 2014
www.danamcintyre.com

Elaine Freed Lindenblatt
Stop at the Red Apple

The Red Apple Rest, a legendary restaurant open from the 1930s through the 1980s on New York’s Route 17, served as a who’s who of entertainment luminaries. This is an account of growing up in 1950s small-town America, a glimpse into the workings of a successful food operation, and a swan song to a glorious slice of bygone popular culture.

Excelsior Editions, December 2014
http://www.stopattheredapple.com/

Ellie Marrandette
Life’s Too Short to Eat Bad Cheese: Nutritional & Life Lessons God Teaches Us

God never meant for us to live by complicated, restrictive diet plans which clearly reject our Maker’s fundamental psychological, physiological and spiritual Truths. Healthy living is not about denying oneself chocolate, cheese, eggs or any other food while consuming only rice cakes and celery. Get healthy God’s Way!

Outskirts Press, October 2014
http://www.outskirtspress.com/webPage/isbn/9781478731818

Elizabeth Harper & Cathleen O’Connor, PhD
365 Days of Angel Prayers

365 Days of Angel Prayers is a celebration of communication with the angelic realm in the form of a multi-author anthology of daily readings written to inspire and guide you to experience a rich and continuous communion with your angels.

Spiritual Living LLC (via CreateSpace), December 2014
http://www.spiritualliving.com/
Ellie Marrandette  
*Sometimes Marriage is a Real Crime*  
A coming-of-age saga of Kate Madison. Spanning 40 years, this memorable, psychological novel conveys how our beliefs, traditions and tragedies occurring while we are young, transform us into the people we ultimately become.  
*CreateSpace, June 2014*

Kelly DuMar  
*All These Cures*  
Winner of the Lit House Press Poetry Chapbook contest, this collection of poems by Kelly DuMar is “an intimate book full of visceral longing for resolution, healing and words left unsaid. A soulful book layered with poignancy and terror of the love between generations.” ~ Maureen Murdock  
*Lit House Press, 2014*

Irene Perez  
*Encounter Between Cuentos and Versos*  
These stories, told in poetic form, show us a childhood lived in Puerto Rico, and they uncover a heart awakening to meet the complexity of a new life in the U.S. mainland.  
*CreateSpace, December 2013*

Kris Bock  
*The Dead Man’s Treasure*  
Rebecca Westin’s grandfather left a buried treasure, and a complex series of clues. Her half-siblings are determined to reach the treasure first. Good thing Rebecca has Sam, making their desert adventure sexy and fun. But a treacherous enemy also wants that treasure – and revenge. A romantic adventure in the Southwest.  
*Pig River Press, January 2015*

Lisa Shapiro & Deborah Reed  
*The Chamber And The Cross*  
A contemporary thriller wrapped around a medieval romance. Set in two time periods – modern day and medieval England – it tells the story of two very different women who live in the same manor house – 560 years apart. “Love is stronger than distance, more enduring than time, and once in a great while you get a second chance.”  
*Kay Publishing, November 2014*
Margaret Dubay Mikus
*Thrown Again into the Frazzle Machine: Poems of Grace, Hope, and Healing*
May these poems be a lifeboat, offering comfort, healing, inspiration, and hope. Although telling a personal story, aspects might express something you want to say or help someone you care about. It has a happy ending as I came through a long black tunnel, “the only way out, is through…”
_Smashwords, October 2014_
_http://www.fullblooming.com/

Marie Murphy Duess
*Holding Silk*
A story about the power of love, the need for hope, and the necessity of believing in yourself and others. A multiracial story, this book recounts a relationship between women that survives more than 70 years, and proves that sometimes friendship can be stronger than family bonds.
_Waterfall Publishing, December 2014_
_http://www.marieduess.com/

Martha Oliver-Smith
*Martha’s Mandala: Figures in a Family Circle*
A memoir of a woman’s struggle to express herself as an artist in the early 20th century. Martha Stringham Bacon’s story of madness, Carl Jung, family, feminism and art emerges through letters, journals, paintings, and the memory and imagination of the granddaughter she raised.
_Spuyten Duyvil Publishing, Nov 2014_
_http://www.marthao Oliver-smith.net/

Patricia Daly
*The Women in His Life: What Jesus Saw in Them*
A collection of 43 stories about women in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each story begins with a verse or verses from the New Testament, followed by the words the author imagines Jesus would have spoken to express his thoughts and feelings about the women he interacted with or heard about during his life.
_CreateSpace, September 2014_
_http://patriciadalywrites.com/

Peggy Sapphire (Editor)
*The Disenfranchised: Stories of Life and Grief When An Ex-Spouse Dies*
“Disenfranchised grief” is an unacknowledged and largely unrecognized form of grief, suffered by those whose loss(es) result from socially stigmatized relationships. In this unprecedented anthology, 19 first-person narratives (16 women/3 men) relate revelatory personal histories in profoundly courageous and honest prose and poetry. Winner of 2014 Honorable Mention, Eric Hoffer Award.
_Baywood Publishing Company, 2013_
_http://baywood.com/

Roberta S. Kuriloff
*Everything Special, Living Joy*
This book is about how we look at life: the glass half empty or half full. It is a thought-provoking book of prose and poetry to inspire, and was written during a meditation retreat.
_Maine Authors Publishing, 2014_
_http://everythingspeciallivingjoy.com/
Member News

If you have good news to share regarding your writing, let us know at iwwgmembernews@gmail.com with subject "Member Pub."


Joan Ramirez, is a Professional Organizer JR and writer specializing in: business correspondence, advertising copy, ghost writing, press releases, office organizing & design, home organizing, and organizing household records. If you need help making order out of chaos in your life, she invites you to contact her at Writerjr1044@gmail.com.

JoAnne Myers’ detective/mystery published by Melange Books, Murder Most Foul, is being transformed into a screenplay, and will be offered to production companies for filming. She is also accepting guest authors on my blogs. Any heat level and genre is accepted. Her crime/mystery anthology Flagitious received two great reviews in January - 5 stars from Paranormal Romance Guild and 4.5 stars from Manic Readers. www.booksandpaintingsbyjoanne.com

Kathy Clem is a multimedia artist and right now her work consists of an alphabet that when completed will be an autobiography. Each letter of her alphabet is an exhibit and a chapter of a book. Besides running her own gallery, last year she had two exhibits: "M is for Mother" and "P is for Places." For a sample of her work please see: https://kathyclem.wordpress.com. Through the years she has attended many Summer IWWG Conferences and these summers have been great catalysts for new ideas. She is looking forward to this summer with IWWG.

Kelly DuMar is pleased to announce the publication of her poem, "How He Asks (After Alzheimer's)," and her creative non-fiction, "Unlearning this Classroom," in the Fall 2014 issue of The Maine Review, and she has four poems, upcoming, in Kindred and Sugared Water in 2015.

Linda Leedy Schneider’s poem “Come on Girl” won first prize and 125 pounds from Hour of Writes’ writing contest. She continues to mentor writers one on one, work in her psychotherapy practice, and is editing an anthology of poetry and prose written by members of her Manhattan Writing Workshop. Contact Linda joschneide@aol.com if you are interested in information on this one day workshop held on various Saturdays in a lovely apartment overlooking Central Park. Linda’s poetry has been published recently in Mas Tequila, Clockwise Cat, Journal of Modern Poetry, Message in a Bottle, Unfold, and Enizagam. She looks forward to reconnecting with her sisters at the Summer IWWG Conference!

Page Lambert announces that after 18 years of leading creative retreats for women, she finally put together a slideshow featuring some of the women writers who have joined her over the years. “What a joy, as I was putting together this slideshow, to remember all the special women who have rafted down Utah rivers, ridden across Wyoming’s beautiful grasslands, and journaled at the foot of Machu Picchu!” View Slideshow.

Susan Tiberghien is happy to announce that her new book, Side be Side, Writing Your Love Stories, will be published in early April, by Red Lotus Studio Press, founded by Melissa A. Rosati, along with a new, expanded edition of Footsteps, In Love with a Frenchman. Susan hopes to see you at the Big Apple, and maybe also at one of the other workshops! (See page 6 for information.)

Call for Submissions & Contests

20 Amazing Writing Residencies You Should Apply for This Year
http://thewritelife.com/writing-residencies/#kN9orW:35y

Cahaba River Literary Journal Debut April, 2015
Works with new and seasoned writers. In need of stories, poems, essays, and color and black and white photography on all subjects, in any form.

Editor’s Tips: “Present to me your best works: I want to laugh, cry, be sad, get angry at the story or poem of just have fun sharing it with our readers. I want ‘awe’ when I seen your photos!”

Length of stories: no more than 2500 words; poetry no more than 25 lines (only submit 3 poems at one time); BW
photos (no more than 5 photos with a short story (no more than 150 words to accompany it as a caption). Pays in copies.

**Deadline: March 20, 2015**
cahabariverliteraryjournal@gmail.com

**Cool Skull Press**
This press is gathering poems, stories, and writing about video games written by women and nonbinary writers for a print zine. **Deadline: March 25, 2015**
http://coolskullpress.com/

**Blinders Journal**
Have you ever, as a new writer, felt intimidated by the contributor bios you read in the back of your favorite magazines? Have you ever, as a well-established writer, wondered how well your manuscripts would fare if they were separated from your name and list of previous publications? Blinders Journal hopes that they have found a solution for writers and poets, new and advanced. They never want to see your cover letter, only your fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and artwork. **Deadline: April 15, 2015**
http://www.blindersjournal.org/submissions.html

**Finishing Line Press**
2015 New Women’s Voices Series Chapbook Competition (Now in its 17th year!) A prize of $1,000 and publication for a chapbook-length poetry collection in print edition and e-book format. Open to women who have never before published a full-length poetry collection. Previous chapbook publication does not disqualify. International entries are welcome. Multiple submissions are accepted. Final judge: Leah Maines. All entries will be considered for publication. The top-ten finalists will be offered publication in the New Women’s Voices Series. Submit up to 26 pages of poetry, PLUS bio, acknowledgments, SASE and cover letter with a $15 entry fee. **Deadline: March 31, 2015**
https://finishinglinepress.submittable.com/submit/37185

**Foliate Oak Literary Magazine**
Accepting submission for their March issue. “We love previously unpublished quirky writing that makes sense…We are always interested in publishing intriguing photography, artwork, and graphic (you know, comics) literature.”
http://www.foliateoak.com/submit.html

**The Kraken Awards**
First annual competition for fiction and poetry. **Deadline: April 30, 2015**
http://devilfishreview.com/the-kraken-awards/

**Lit mags that publish nontraditional forms and found poetry**
http://trishhopkinson.com/2015/01/06/which-lit-mags-publish-nontraditional-forms-and-found-poetry/

**Soap Stone Creek Literary Journal**
Debuts May, 2015
Bi-monthly print journal for kids of all ages.
http://soapstonecreekjournal.com/

**Sundress Publications**
Third annual chapbook contest. Looking for fiction, nonfiction, poetry or any combination thereof. **Deadline: March 30, 2015**
https://sundresspublications.submittable.com/submit/38041

**The Sustainable Arts Foundation**
A non-profit foundation supporting artists and writers with families. The foundation will award the following: Sustainable Arts Foundation Award: $6,000 Sustainable Arts Foundation Promise Award: $2,000 They typically offer five of each award in each application round. http://apply.sustainableartsfoundation.org/

**WriterAdvice**
Seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction running 750 words or less. Enlighten, dazzle, and delight us. Finalists receive responses from all judges. First prize is $200. **Deadline: April 21, 2015**
Complete details at www.writeradvice.com

**For all contests and calls for submissions: copy taken from individuals, press releases, and websites and are not IWWG endorsements. Please conduct your own research before submitting.**