

"I read the way a person might swim, to save his or her life. I wrote that way too."

- Mary Oliver



Hey {Contact_First_Name},

Happy February!

Check out everything Wisconsin Writers Association has to offer this month!



Join us on Feb. 4th at 7PM for an open mic hosted by Thomas Wayne King & Debbi King.

Register

President's Message

Crazy month. Big ups, big downs, big all arounds.

And suddenly, poetry is in the air – national transmissions and American visions of terrible incisions potent words and hyper-condensed language that changes the world. Our friend Dasha Kelly Hamilton, is named Wisconsin Poet Laureate, a tower of power challenging us to better ways and means like she's always done. And twenty-two-year-old Amanda Gorman, a "skinny Black girl" straight outta LA, on the sunny steps of the Capitol – she said we are:

"A country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold,
fierce and free...

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states...

We will rebuild, reconcile and recover...

For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it."

I don't know about you, but words like these shake me up. Always. Whether it's Amanda Gorman, Dasha Kelly Hamilton, or Emily Dickinson on that marvelous series on Apple TV, poetry matters. Read poetry, write poetry, feel poetry. Words and language can indeed change the world.

And that's where we come in – all us writers. This means you.

Speaking of that, sign up for our next *WVA Open Mic and Mini-Workshop* with marvelous Northlanders Debbi and Tom King on February 4. Read your stuff! Learn a thing or two! <https://wiwrite.org/events>

Mark your calendars for every third Thursday of the month – *WVA's Craft Solution Summit* with WVA Board Member and Craft Chair, author R. R. Campbell. Share success, troubleshoot challenges, develop goals. Next workshop is February 18. <https://wiwrite.org/events>

Save the date – April 10 – a Saturday morning WVA conference featuring past pillars of the beloved UW Writers Institute, Laurie Scheer and Christine De Smet. And the wonderful Wisconsin novelists Christi Clancy and Tim Storm will also join us. Stay tuned for details and registration.

Keep in touch. And, for heaven's sake, keep on writing.

Barry



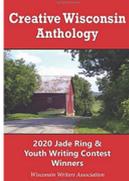
Share your pride in WVA

Download badges to include in your email signature and other areas where you want to tell the world about your associations. Visit the WVA website to [download your badge](#).

Student Writing Contest



Calling all high school juniors and seniors!
It's time to enter the WVA Student Writing Competition. [Click here to read all the rules.](#)



Get ready for the 73rd WVA Jade Ring Writing Contest!

The 2021 contest will open on March 1.

We've increased our awards and kept entry fees the same as they were in 2020!

First Place: \$200 cash prize plus a coveted Jade Ring or \$200

Second Place: \$150 cash prize

Third Place: \$100 cash prize

Honorable Mention: complimentary one-year WVA membership (new or renewed)

All winners' entries will be published in the 2021 *Creative Wisconsin Anthology*.

We're excited to unveil our 2021 judges and contest details soon.

Watch for the news to be announced soon on our website and in social media.

Ann Garvin & Erin Colello, two of our speakers from our October Conference have launched their project, the 5th Semester.

[Find writing classes, personal coaching and more.](#)



Contests and Submission Opportunities

We've updated our contest and submission page on the website! Make sure to check it out.

Contests:

[Rising Writers Prize](#)

[SLO Competition](#)

[SEE MORE CONTESTS](#)

Submission Opportunities:

[Fractured Lit](#)

[Herstory Literary Magazine](#)

[Sounder Midwest](#)

[Stone Crop Review](#)

[Grain Magazine](#)

[SEE MORE SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Book Reviews

The book review program will be shifting into high gear soon. There have been several requests for first time releases in the future. It's wonderful to plan ahead and we are happy to help get your marketing off to a good start with early reviews or reviews prepped and ready to go on or near release day. Publishers, too, are welcome to submit requests. To request a book review, [click here](#). I tend to send that link to you if you write to ask me how to submit your book.

Check the whole line of book reviews under the tab "Blog" and "Book Review" on WVA's website home page or link here: <https://wiwrite.org/book-reviews>

We don't have any requirements regarding whether you should leave a review for someone else if you request one, but we're always very happy to have willing review team members. The more of us, the lighter the load. You get a book, and the author gets a review. Please check the guidelines under the Blog-Book Reviews [tab](#).

I'm happy to answer questions about the program. Email me at ljalickel-at-yahoo.com.

Be sure to check out the new line up of craft classes being offered by Red Oak Writing. WVA members receive a discount!

[Click here to access the class list.](#)



WVA Literary Press Poll

In deciding whether to move forward in potentially establishing a traditional, royalty-paying literary Press, WVA requests your input. Responses will be collected through March 31, 2021.

Any questions or points of discussion can be directed to Lisa Lickel, ljalickel@hotmail.com.

[Take the WVA Press Poll](#)

Join WVA's Private Facebook Group



If becoming your own best editor sounds appealing, and an immersive program with gentle accountability and real community would help, reach out to me now. Pro bono consults to discuss your needs are offered to all Wisconsin Writers members. Email Katey at katey.schultz@gmail.com to schedule, or go straight to the application.

Member News:

Got news? Email [Julia Nusbaum](#) by February 20th to share your news in the next brief.

Jonnie Guernsey received honorable mention in the Chicago Writers Association's First Chapter Contest.

Ken Luber's novel *The Sun Jumpers* was recently optioned by an animation company to be made into a TV series.

WVA is happy to announce Carol Paur is the new WVA Student Writing contest.



Write a story about a missed connection.

Write a poem about unrequited love.



Editors Note: The WVA NewsBrief is about member accomplishments, writing events, and contests. It is delivered at the end of each month. If you have news for the November issue please send it to the [editor](#), by January 20th. Thank you.

Follow WVA on Social!



"A writer is a world trapped in a person."

- Victor Hugo

