

# WRITERS' WIRE

The newsletter for women writers in the know.



Women Who Write, Inc.

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

The "GoTo" place for women

## THE YEAR AHEAD FOR WOMEN WHO WRITE

By Peggy DeKay

Can you believe it? Another year has come and gone. How are you doing with your writing goals? What do you want to get done in 2011? Now is the time to ask those questions. As we move into 2011, the board and I have lots of exciting things planned. Here are the highlights:

**New Board Position:** In our February meeting the membership approved adding a fifth board position, Associate Director of Communications and PR. Susan Lindsey was nominated and unanimously elected as the Associate Director of Communications and PR. Susan will review all of our public communications such as Web content as well as prepare and distribute press releases to promote our contests and events. Congratulations Susan.

**New Newsletter Editor:** I have been the newsletter editor for nearly two years—and I have enjoyed every minute of it. It is time to give someone else a turn, and I am pleased to announce that our own Ms. Cynthia Canada, a member of Women Who Write since 2009, will be taking over the newsletter starting with the February edition. Cynthia is a professional copywriter for Humana and has been the editor of other online newsletters. She spoke about her new position at the February meeting. I know you will all support Cynthia in her new endeavor for our group. Thank you, Cynthia!

**Women Who Write Cookbook:** Due to unforeseen demands on her time, Katie Bush will not be able to chair our Cookbook Contest in 2011. Cathy Courson is our new Cookbook Chair for 2011. Cathy is looking for members for her committee, get involved and help make this year's contest the best ever! Email Cathy at [cathycourson@gmail.com](mailto:cathycourson@gmail.com).

**Annual Retreat:** Each year Women Who Write hosts a weekend retreat for our members. This year Beth Wells has agreed to chair our retreat committee. If you have not been involved and would like to be, please contact Beth Wells at [boisseau212@gmail.com](mailto:boisseau212@gmail.com).

**Web site:** This year we will be revamping our Web site, upgrading our Facebook fan page and adding significant resources to our existing Web site. Cathy Courson is chairing our technology planning committee. If you are a techie at heart and want to help email, Cathy at [cathycourson@gmail.com](mailto:cathycourson@gmail.com).

## WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

ENCOURAGING, SUPPORTING AND EDUCATING  
WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO WRITE

### Around the Town for Writers

#### FEBRUARY 2011

**Feb 20** Sheri Wright, poet and author of the *Slow Talk of Stone* will be at the Bard's Town, 7 pm

**Feb 11** -- Louisville -- InKY Reading Series at The Bards Town. **KiKi Petrosino**, poetry; open mic at 7 pm featured readers at 8 pm.

**Feb 12** -- Louisville -- A Reader's Corner **Bookstore** hosts Marlene Mitchell and Gary Yeagle signing *Seasons of Death: The Smoky Mountains Murders*. 1-3 pm.

### SUBMISSIONS

#### INDIANA REVIEW POETRY CONTEST

[www.indianareview.org/](http://www.indianareview.org/)

ENTRY FEE: \$15 Deadline March 25  
Up to three poems per entry, eight pages maximum. \$1,000 Prize & Publication

#### WILLOW SPRINGS FICTION PRIZE

[willowsprings.ewu.edu/contests.php](http://willowsprings.ewu.edu/contests.php)

ENTRY FEE \$15-\$20

winner will receive a prize of \$2,000, plus publication in Willow Springs. No word limit. Deadline, March 1, 2011.

## DECEMBER 2010, A MONTH OF FIRSTS

By Peggy DeKay

December was a great ending to a wonderful year with Women Who Write. The last month of 2010 proved to be a month of firsts for our group. We aired our first ever radio interview on crescenthillradio.com, Crescent Hill Radio at 1650 AM. "From The Inkwell," one hour dedicated to all things literary, airs Saturdays at 1 pm EST or is available live-streaming at [www.crescenthillradio.com](http://www.crescenthillradio.com). All of the shows are archived on the Web site, so if you miss one, you can click on the archives and hear the show in its entirety. The radio station owner and host, Sheri Wright, is a published author and poet. Deanna O'Daniel and I talked with Sheri about Women Who Write. The interview was one hour and we covered many topics. It was a wonderful experience and I would like to thank Sheri on behalf of all of us at Women Who Write for allowing Deanna and me to be a part of her show.

You can access the archived show at [www.crescenthillradio.com](http://www.crescenthillradio.com). Click on the Inkwell show for December 18, 2010, then click on the icon and play the interview. Sheri has invited us to come back anytime.

I hope you will make listening to the Inkwell a regular part of your week.

*You can get a copy of Sheri's latest chapbook, [The Slow Talk of Stones](#) by Finishing Line Press. Sheri will be appearing at the Bards Town on February 20 at 7:00 pm. To learn more about Sheri, visit her Web site <http://www.scribblingsandsuch.com/default.html>.*

## Member Names in the News

**Susan Lindsey**, Women Who Write member, is pleased to announce the opening of her new business, [Savvy Communication LLC](#). The Louisville-based company offers a range of communication services to businesses and individuals, including authors seeking editing, proofreading and media relations expertise. Susan has 19 years of experience in corporate communication and public relations. She has a bachelor's degree in communication and is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America. Contact her at 502-585-2419 or [info@savvy-comm.com](mailto:info@savvy-comm.com).

**Emily Boone** and **Susan Lindsey** both submitted haiku poems that were published in the Courier Journal Sunday edition (December 26<sup>th</sup>). This is living proof of the maxim—"you can never get published what you never submit."

**Deanna O'Daniel** and **Peggy DeKay** were interviewed by Sheri Wright on [www.crescenthillradio.com](http://www.crescenthillradio.com). To listen to the full broadcast click on this link or go [Inkwell Interview with Deanna O'Daniel & Peggy DeKay on Women Who Write](#) (originally aired December 18, 2010) length: one hour.



*If you have been published or have received an award or accolade in your writing career please let us know. Send your news to [info@womenwhowrite.com](mailto:info@womenwhowrite.com)*

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## Procrastination—the Uninvited Squatter

By Emily Boone

It is time to ring in 2011, but there is an uninvited guest, Ms. Procrastination. We have met before, many times. *How dare you enter my New Year!*

As I relax with an exhaling breath, I ponder the skills I need to show Ms. Procrastination the exit door. First, I must gather the courage and determination to ignore the presence and proceed with my writing. Pushing through the fear, I compose the poem “Disengage.” This is working, I am writing.

Just when I think procrastination is gone, the *what ifs* barge into my consciousness. I realize that this is just more negative thinking. I wonder if ignoring the what-ifs will work for me—does anything work 100 percent of the time? But I am ready. I have a backup. I reach into my desk drawer and pull out my strategic plan, my list of goals.

I see my list of topics for short articles, poems, and story plots that I have written down. These are things that I want to accomplish during the holidays. I pick a topic and write a poem on “My Duty.”

Using my list of topics is a jump start to send procrastination out of my life. Nike has the right idea—“*Just Do It!*” When procrastination comes I need to add another phrase—*Do it Afraid*. This gives me the courage to push through what I am feeling and let the movement and momentum of taking action propel me through the fear.

Will Ms. Procrastination barge in, shutting me down by bringing along a third companion, *Overwhelm*? How can I dispense with her? I assess my strengths and look at my accomplishments. This is the time to prioritize my writing goals for the coming year. After prioritizing, I set benchmarks for obtaining each goal with time lines by each benchmark. This list becomes my written plan of action.

Taking another deep breath, I exhale and praise myself for putting in writing my plan of action. I will start every work day implementing this plan.

My creative expression is *the priority* of every day! This is my mission statement and my strategic plan. I am providing a nurturing environment in which my creative expressions flourish. I am the implementer, unleashing my creativity. This will dispense with the roadblocks of procrastination. I am worth the risk of putting my creative priorities first and throwing my energies into their formation. This process leaves no space for squatters.

*Emily Boone is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience. For more information, see her Web site [www.emilyboonemsw.com](http://www.emilyboonemsw.com) or email her at [emilyboone@aol.com](mailto:emilyboone@aol.com).*

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#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*“It took me 15 years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn’t give it up because by that time I was too famous.”*  
~Robert Benchley

2011 promises to be an exciting year for writers. The proliferation of information available online is greater than ever. To keep all of those blog posts, Web sites, eBooks and books available, one thing is needed—you guessed it—writers! Aren’t we lucky that our profession is in such demand? This is the year to write or finish that book you have been thinking about or working on. This is the year to submit your prose and poetry to contests, magazines, ezines and editors. This is the year to begin that blog that you have been talking about writing—this is the year to *pioneer your career!*

Take procrastination by the horns, pull out all of the stops, and don’t look back. This is the year of the writer in you! Make a commitment to yourself, then follow it through and 2011 can be the best year of your writing life.

*Peggy Barnes DeKay, Editor  
Director of Women Who Write*

## MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to encourage, support and educate all women who aspire to write. Our group is diverse and dynamic. Whether you are beginning your writing journey, are a newly published writer, or are in the middle of your career, there is something here for you.

### Benefits of Membership

Writing critique	Annual retreat
Public readings	Writing contests
Annual anthology	Guest lectures
Annual awards ceremony	Free workshops

*Come and grow with us!*

### Meeting times and locations

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month in Highlands Library Branch  
Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Road  
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**



Women Who Write, Inc., a nonprofit 501c3 was co-founded in 1992 by Carridder "Rita" Jones, a playwright, author and historian.

## Names in the News *Continued*

**Beth Wells** has started her new blog, Dawg Pause, about owning and caring for dogs. Her new blog will feature articles of interest to dog owners, stories written by Beth and other posts. If you are a dog owner or just love dogs, become a follower on Beth's blog at: <http://dawgpause.blogspot.com>.

**Judith Owens Lalude** is preparing for the tenth anniversary of her children's writing group, CCPW. Her guest of honor is Chrystal Wilkerson, award winning author of *Blackberry*, *Blackberry* and *Water Street*. Judith will also be teaching a course through the University of Louisville's Delphi Center called *Writing for Children Level I*. If you know anyone who would like to learn about how to write for children, contact Judith online at [Judith Lalude's Web site](#).

**Peggy DeKay** is teaching a course entitled "How to Self-Publish Your Book" through the University of Louisville Delphi center in March. She is also teaching that same course at Indiana University Southeast Adult Learning Center in April. On February 1, she will be giving a one hour overview on self-publishing at the New Albany-Floyd County Library and on February 15, she will be giving a two-hour overview of self-publishing at the Bon Air library. If you know anyone who might want to attend, email Peggy at [pdkpost@gmail.com](mailto:pdkpost@gmail.com).

*If you have received an award, been published or have been recognized in some way during the month, please let us know so we can include your name and information in our Names in the News column.*