

# WRITERS' WIRE

*The newsletter for women writers  
in the know.*



## WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

ENCOURAGING, SUPPORTING AND EDUCATING  
WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO WRITE

**March 2011**

Special mid-month "March Madness" edition

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Hey, what happened to February? And why a newsletter in the *middle* of March? Well, because:

- February got lost in the rubble of bronchitis, "razor blade throat" (an official medical diagnosis, I swear), and the stress of getting free of a problematic situation.
- And there's WAY too much going on to let the rest of March slide by and miss *all* of it!

So without further ado ... enjoy your *mid-March* newsletter!

*From the editor*

## Book Review: *The Art and Craft of Writing Historical Fiction*, by James Alexander Thom

*Reviewed by Susan E. Lindsey*

Are you writing a Civil War epic? A Regency romance? A vivid tale of the French Revolution? Or maybe your novel is set in the more recent past—the Great Depression, the struggle for civil rights, or the *Mad Men* era of the 1950s and '60s. How can you write historically accurate fiction that is both compelling and readable?

Well-known historical fiction author, James Alexander Thom, has penned a great guide to writing historical fiction. Thom is the author of nine well-researched American frontier novels, including national bestsellers *Follow the River* and *From Sea to Shining Sea*.

Thom's new book, *The Art and Craft of Writing Historical Fiction*, guides writers through the process of conducting deep historical research: hands-on, on-site and online. He discusses using technology effectively, sorting and organizing information, and connecting the dots. He reminds writers that they must know more than they write. He quotes one of his own writing instructors, urging writers to, "Write to their senses!"

Thom accurately captures the historical novelist's dilemma and then points the way forward, "But here's the key: Whether your historical story is ancient or recent history, what you want to do is re-create it in full—live, colorful, smelly, noisy, savory, painful, repugnant, scary, all the ways it actually was—and then set your reader down smack in the midst of it."

Thom's highly readable book provides straightforward, helpful advice for anyone striving to write good historical fiction. The book is published by Writer's Digest Books and is available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and through major book retailers.



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

## Members in the News

If you've been published, reviewed, scheduled a reading – in fact, if you have *any* noteworthy news about your work – let us know! We want to spread the excitement.

E-mail [info@womenwhowrite.com](mailto:info@womenwhowrite.com)  
or call the editor at 502-905-3925.



### Editor's Note

A couple of years ago, I was chatting with my friend Margaret about career, dreams, graduate degrees – you know, basic girl talk. I told her I love to write, but I had trouble getting honest feedback from friends who read my work. She suggested I e-mail her friend Rita Jones about a group called Women Who Write.

And here we are. (How's *that* for making a long story short? 😊)

In case we haven't met, I'll introduce myself. I'm Cynthia. I'm the new editor for the *Writers' Wire*. I write mostly short fiction, which is hard to sell unless you have a close personal friend at *The New Yorker*. (I don't.) Right now, I'm working on a novel. When I get tired of the characters' antics, I take a break and work on a piece of non-fiction, mostly about coping with change and riding a bicycle. The picture above is the first professional portrait I've had since high school – a LO-O-O-ONG time ago – and my family calls it "Mom's best-seller cover shot."

I've worked as a marketing copywriter, which involves much more than just advertising copy, believe me! Until recently, I was a Letters Content Specialist, pretty much meaning I tried to ensure the company I worked for didn't send out letters with mistakes.

It paid the bills.

But my first loves are writing and editing. I'm a stickler for punctuation, spelling, and grammar, but I try to be nice about it. (Yes, it's now okay to start sentences with conjunctions. Tell the English teacher in your head to go back to sleep.) I love to read, but I'll throw a book out in a heartbeat if I detect failure to check the "frequently confused words" list. And I'm obsessed with the *Associated Press Stylebook*, which can make reading *The New York Times* difficult – but so far, I've managed.

That's me in a nutshell.

If you're on our mailing list, thanks for reading! I encourage you to pass this newsletter along to friends who write – and friends who love to read. We're considering upgrades and new content over the coming months, starting with a genuinely *electronic* newsletter. And we want to expand our reach.

As our mission statement says, Women Who Write, Inc. truly is all about "*encouraging, supporting and educating women who aspire to write.*" You don't have to live in Louisville to join or participate. You *certainly* don't have to live here (or even join) to be on the mailing list for the *Writers' Wire*. We want to encourage, support, and educate all the "women who write" that we can – women from 14 to 104, from published to just getting started to "thinking about it."

Help us get the word out. Pass it on.

Cynthia C. Canada



## Area News for Women Who Write: What's happening in March

### Area events:

#### Friday March 11 – Louisville

**InKY Reading Series** at The Bards Town. **Keith Banner** and **Karen McElmurray**, fiction; Joel Henderson, music. Open mic at 7 p.m., featured readers at 8 p.m.

**Angene Wilson** and **Jack Wilson** speak on their new book, **Voices From the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers**. The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. Third Street. 12 noon. Reservations: The Filson, 502-635-5083, or at [www.filsonhistorical.org](http://www.filsonhistorical.org).

#### Saturday March 12 – Louisville

**Ellen Birkett Morris** will appear on Sheri Wright's **"From The Inkwell: Poetry and Prose Hour"** on Louisville's Crescent Hill Radio. Morris will talk about writing across genres and read her poem, "Measurements," which appears in the current issue of *Gastronomica*. 1650-AM, and streaming live at [www.CHRadio.net](http://www.CHRadio.net). 1 p.m.

#### Tue March 15 -- Lexington

**English B Tuesday**, Lexington's only themed open mic, is the third Tuesday of each month. Light refreshments and beverages served. Writers have up to four weeks to write to the same prompt; March's theme is "yield." More info and poems from February's "whistle" prompt at [www.englishbtuesday.blogspot.com](http://www.englishbtuesday.blogspot.com). Alfalfa's (141 East Main Street), 7 p.m. Free.

#### Friday March 18 -- Lexington

Nationally bestselling author **Kim Edwards** reads from and signs her latest novel, **The Lake of Dreams**. The Morris Book Shop, 408 Southland Drive. 7 p.m. Free.

#### Saturday March 19 -- Lexington

**Angene and Jack Wilson** sign **Voices from the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers**. The Morris Book Shop, 2 p.m. Free.

**Liz Curtis Higgs** discusses and signs **Mine is the Night**. Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 161 Lexington Green Circle. 2 p.m.

**Louisville** -- Celebrate the release of **Molly Harper's How to Flirt with a Naked Werewolf**. A Reader's Corner Bookstore, 138 Breckinridge Lane, 1-3 p.m. Book launch party at The Bards Town, 1801 Bardstown Rd, 7-9 p.m.

#### Monday March 21 -- Lexington

**Angene Wilson and Jack Wilson** discuss and sign **Voices From the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers**. Joseph-Beth Booksellers. 7 p.m.

#### Thursday March 24 -- Lexington

**Halfway to the Women Writers Conference**, with poet **Lynnell Edwards**, at Regatta Seafood Grille, 161 Lexington Green Circle, sponsored by *Skirt!* magazine. Drawing for two free tickets to the Lexington conference on September 15-18. Speakers for the September conference unveiled, with their books available for purchase next door at Joseph-Beth, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Reading by Lynnell Edwards at 7 p.m.

#### Friday March 25 -- Owensboro

**Kim Michele Richardson** will sign **The Unbreakable Child** at Books-A-Million, 4606 Frederica Street, 4-7 p.m.

#### Saturday March 26 -- Lexington

Workshop on writing and illustrating children's picture books, sponsored by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Featured speakers: authors **George Ella Lyon** and **Heather Henson** and artist **Susan Eaddy**. Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Advance registration: [www.scbwi-midsouth.org/](http://www.scbwi-midsouth.org/).

#### Louisville

**Support Women Artists Now (SWAN) Day**, a showcase of local writers, visual artists, musicians, theatre artists, and dancers. PYRO Gallery, 624 W. Main, 1- 2 pm. Free. For more information: Nancy Gall-Clayton, [nancygallclayton@earthlink.net](mailto:nancygallclayton@earthlink.net), or Kathi E.B. Ellis, [theatrekate@gmail.com](mailto:theatrekate@gmail.com).

#### Wed March 30 -- Lexington

Holler Poets Series at Al's Bar features **Nikky Finney** reading from her new book, **Head Off & Split**.

#### Thursday March 31 – Lexington

**Martha Evans Sparks** discusses and signs **Raising Your Children's Children**. Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 7 p.m.

### Call for Submissions:

**Ontologica** is accepting submissions in non-fiction, poetry, fiction, and art between March 1 and April 30. All submissions will be considered for the summer 2011 issue. <http://www.warriorpoetgroup.com/Ontologica/>

## Contests:

### Two national contests from [Sarabande Books](http://www.sarabandebooks.org/):

The Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry and the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction. Submissions opened Jan. 1, 2011. See Website for details.

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

### [The Eric Hoffer Award for Short Prose](http://www.hofferaward.com/),

<http://www.hofferaward.com/>

NO ENTRY FEE – \$500 for winning entry.

Short prose, less than 10,000 words. Previously unpublished or published with a circulation of less than 500. Winning prose and selected nominations published annually in the anthology. Deadline **March 31, 2011.**

### [The Writer's Short Story Contest](http://www.writermag.com/2011contest),

<http://www.writermag.com/2011contest>

\$10 ENTRY FEE – Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$300 and \$200 for the top three finishers.

2,000 words or less, English only. 18 and older. Funds for Writers and Gotham Writers' Workshop are partners in sponsoring this contest. Winner's short story published in *The Writer*; top three finishers receive a year's subscription to *The Writer* and publication on [WriterMag.com](http://www.writermag.com). Gotham Writers' Workshop will also provide prizes. Deadline **April 30, 2011.**

### ["Scare the Dickens Out of Us" Ghost Story Writing Contest](http://www.clarklibraryfriends.com)

<http://www.clarklibraryfriends.com>

ENTRY FEE \$20 ADULT/\$5 STUDENT – First place \$1,000 / Second place \$500 / Third place \$250

Original, previously unpublished ghost stories, 5,000 words or less. Entries open July 1, 2011; postmark deadline **Oct. 1, 2011.** No publication involved; writers retain full rights to their stories. Open to published, unpublished, local, national, and international writers.

## Your Ad Goes Here

To find out how to place your advertisement here, e-mail [info@womenwhowrite.com](mailto:info@womenwhowrite.com).

# 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're just starting out, a newly published writer, or in the middle of your career, there's something here for you.

## Benefits of membership

Writing critique  
Annual retreat

Free workshops  
Annual anthology

Cookbook contest  
Guest lectures

Public readings  
Annual awards ceremony

## *Come and grow with us!*

### Regular meetings:

First Thursday each month in the Highlands Branch, Jefferson County Free Public Library, Mid City Mall  
1250 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY  
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.