

# Saturday Writers Newsletter

March • 2020

Saturday  
Writers



Writers Encouraging Writers Since 2002

A Chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild

A Nonprofit Organization / Corporation

[www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org) • [info@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:info@saturdaywriters.org)

Post Office Box 2093 • Saint Peters • Missouri • 63376

## All Saturday Writers Meetings at Spencer Road Library CANCELLED Due to COVID-19

2020 Saturday Writers Board announced cancellation of all activities scheduled to take place at Spencer Road Library via email on March 13. Leadership has been closely watching the news about COVID-19. We have learned that the St. Charles City County Library has closed through April 6, and canceled all events through May 10.

Unfortunately, that means our 2019 anthology signing event will need to be rescheduled. A new date will be announced once a location is confirmed with the library.

That also means our March meeting will not be held. We have rescheduled the poetry speaker to our May meeting date, and are evaluating what we might do for the April meeting.

In addition, the write-ins and Creative Salon will also not be able to meet at the library.

If you know a member who doesn't regularly check email, please reach out to them via phone so they know.

While we will miss seeing everyone at the signing and meeting, erring on the side of caution seems prudent. In the meanwhile, whip those pens and notebooks or computers out and write something. The contests will continue as scheduled.

While cancellations of events are disappointing, limiting contact

between people has a long been found effective for limiting the spread of virulent, contagious diseases. In the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on March 13, 2020, Tony Messenger credits the extensive shut down of St. Louis by health commissioner Max Starkloff during the Spanish Influenza epidemic with the city (then fourth largest in the U.S.) with having the lowest death lowest death rate.

In addition to avoiding unnecessary group contacts, the World Health Organization recommends the following:

**Clean your hands** thoroughly with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

**Maintain at least three feet distance** between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Avoid touching** eyes, nose and mouth.

**Cover your mouth and nose** with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Stay home if you feel unwell.**

**If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing**, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Follow the directions of your local health authority.

**For more information see:**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

## Welcome to Saturday Writers

Join us on the last Saturday of each month, January through September to hear speakers share their knowledge of craft, writing process, marketing, all things writing in all genres. We meet at Spencer Road Library in St. Peters.

- 10:00-11:00 a.m.—Members Only: Works-in-Progress Café. Visitors are welcome to sit in and listen. Room 265
- 11:00-1:00 p.m.—Regular Meeting in Room 240 for business items and our guest speaker.

Doors open at 10:45 a.m. Please allow us to get set up prior to then.

Visitors are welcome: \$5.00 at the door, which can be applied to membership dues, should you choose to join us.

- 1:30 p.m. Lunch—Everyone is invited to continue networking at a restaurant to be determined each month and announced at the general meeting.

- 2:30-5:45 p.m.—Write-In: Room 210, Spencer Road Library



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## Finding Your Niche

Writing is a lot of different things depending on who you ask. To one writer, it's a way to share family history so stories aren't lost from one generation to the next. To another, it might be dreams of best-selling fiction stardom. To a third, it might be penning the next great American novel or poetry collection. To someone else, it might be a means of supplementing their income by writing non-fiction articles for various publications.

If your goal is closer to the first, then sit down and put pen to paper—or keyboard—as consistently as possible. The “what” you write isn't nearly as important as actually writing. Before you know it, you'll have a notebook—or a computer—full of tales to share. You may choose to share them only with family and close friends. Or you may decide to enter these essays in contests. Either way, you can find an outlet.

If your goal is to write non-fiction articles, start with a topic you feel best suits you. What are you passionate about? What are your hobbies? Or is there a topic you want to learn more about and are willing to research? For instance, I am passionate about plants. I could easily pen an article on how to grow tropical plants in the Midwest based on knowledge I already possess—I'm quite good at it, and there are likely several publications I could pitch. But to write an article on how to make store-bought orchids re-bloom, I would need to: 1) do some research, and 2) experiment to prove it can be done using those methods. This just so happens to be a project I am currently undertaking. It's a more long-term kind of research, since the experimentation could take a year or more.

To write for non-fiction publication, the second step is to research your market. What publications buy articles like you want to write? Each magazine, newspaper, online media has a unique style and approach for their publication. Some are light reading, some humorous, some serious business. Read some articles to glean an idea of their style and focus, their niche. If your goal is to sell the article, you must do your research. The same applies to penning a non-fiction book—research and write. Then research the agents/publishers who take this kind of work.

Since I rarely write anything that could even remotely be considered literary, I shall leave the discussion of the great American novel to the



## President's Contest Winners

**Theme:** Write about something predicted in one decade that came true in another, or that might in a future decade.

### Prose

#### First Place and Best of Contest:

Christine Anthony for “Cry of the Red Wolf”

**Second Place:** Donna Mork Reed for “Transporters”

**Third Place:** Heather Hartmann for “Waiting”

**HM:** Sue Fritz for “Only Time Would Tell”

### Flash

**First Place:** Heather Hartmann for “Tomb”

**Second Place:** Wesley Ginther for “The Music Box”

**HM:** Jane Hamilton for “Jacked”

### Poetry

**First Place:** Heather Hartmann for “Ten Years”

**Second Place:** Denise Scott for “Brain Tangles”

**HM:** Tara Pedroley for “The Safe Zone”

### Essay

**First Place:** Susan Gore Zahra for “Ike Tried to Tell Us”

### Drabble

**First Place:** Marilyn O'Neill for “Ouija Foresight and Hindsight”

**Second Place:** Heather Hartmann for “Science Project”

**HM:** Sherry Cerrano for “Heartless”

experts. Since it's outside the realm of genre fiction, it either strikes the fancy of an agent who can then sell it to a publisher, or it doesn't. All I'll say is if you're drawn to this type of work, write it the best you can. Never let anyone tell you it can't be done.

Now, for best-selling stardom status, while it could be a literary work, it is most likely extremely well-written, market-targeted, genre fiction. Basically, this means that the question of “where would it fit on a bookstore shelf” is easily answered by the story itself. It fits into a known set of genre rules or tropes and has an audience hungry for more similar books. This is what's known as a niche, or “market” and if you pay attention when reading, you'll find these little gems—aka clues—throughout the work. The best ones—those that may achieve the pinnacle of best-seller status—blend these in so well and in such a unique way they disappear into the story.

Regardless of what you want to write, the bottom line is that one must actually write to be a writer. Thinking about writing is not the same thing as burning through ink pens and notebooks, or bytes on your computer. Write something!

—Jeanne Felfe, President

*What's The Big Idea?*

## Off to a Great Start!

Saturday Writers started the year off with five first place winners from the President's contest. Participants were encouraged to write about something predicted in one decade that came true in another decade, or might come true in a future decade.

That theme brought in some remarkable entries in a variety of categories: Drabble, Flash Fiction, Poetry, Essay, and Prose, culminating with a Best of Contest winner.

"Ouija Foresight and Hindsight" by Marilyn O'Neill took first place in the drabble competition. Writing a drabble presents the challenge of writing a story in a hundred words, no more, no less. I've already exceeded that in this article. For Marilyn, the challenge is no greater than writing a poem or short story. "My biggest issue is finding something to write about, and then creating the first line. Once I come up with a decent beginning, the rest comes more quickly. Then, I have to hash it out by myself and later with my critique group. The encouragement and education I receive from the Wednesday WIP group is invaluable. Marilyn is very close to completing a magical realism story that she began in a writing class last year and continues to work on a cycle of sacred poems. Kudos to Marilyn for her interesting and thought-provoking entry.

It takes no less effort and skill to write a flash fiction story of five-hundred words or less, but Heather Hartmann managed to rework a previous short story to meet those requirements and ended up with a first place for "Tomb." "I wrote 'Tomb' for the garage theme for a 2019 contest. The theme evoked memories of my dad. The story didn't win. I looked it over and realized I could cut it down to make it more poignant. I cut over 150 words to turn it into flash fiction. The result was a heartfelt story about a daughter missing her father. With fiction, elements of the story are rooted in truth." Well done, Heather.

One of the fun things about writing is that a topic can trigger more than one story. Heather showed more of her talents with her first place poetry entry, "Ten Years." "Interestingly enough, both pieces were based in losing my father. He's been gone ten years this year and the poem just poured out of me. I wrote it two hours before the submission deadline. I've never placed in any Poetry contest, and I've entered on and off over the last few years. We have an incredible group



of poets at SW. It's an honor to take first place." Heather says to keep writing, keep submitting, but most importantly, write from your heart. Sound advice for any writer. Thanks, Heather.

We don't see a lot of essays with the SW contests entries. I asked Susan Gore Zahra, what inspired her to write the winning entry "Ike Tried to Tell Us."

"The topic of a prediction coming true in another decade almost made me focus on other contests. News stories of escalation of conflict between the U.S. and Iran triggered a memory of Eisenhower's farewell address. I played with that and did some research that triggered recollections of other things. I wove the research and personal history together."

Susan suggests that essays have received a bad rap because most of us were forced to write them in school. I have to agree. For me, I find writing fiction easier. Susan pointed out some important differences. "When writing fiction, if you hit a dead end, you can tweak a character or try a different plot twist. With an essay, you are constrained by logic and sometimes facts. David Sedaris is the king of personal essays. He tosses in belly-laugh humor that is obviously exaggeration at the very least, but the main events happened. Essays on op-ed pages require more verifiable evidence than humor. 'Ike' combines both research that supports my point and personal recall of the evolution of my understanding." She ended our interview with some interesting advice: "Take a stab at an essay on a topic that you want to write about instead of one that you have to write about." Thanks, Susan, that's worth a shot.

Drum roll, please! "Cry of the Red Wolf" by Christine Anthony not only won first place in prose, but took Best of Contest. What makes this even more remarkable is that Christine is one of our remote members who lives too far away to make our meetings. She decided to join our club after learning about Saturday Writers from Jeanne Felfe, while attending another organization's writing event.

Christine is a retired school teacher, photographer, and passionate animal lover. The contest theme became an opportunity to address an issue dear to her heart, endangered species. As a strong proponent for preserving wildlife, it became a win-win-win effort that surprised and amazed her when she read the contest results on-line.

From the very start, I felt the intensity of this well-

*Continued on page 4—Big Idea*



# APRIL SATURDAY WRITER EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m.. <b>CANCELLED</b>
5	6	7	8 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice.	9	10	11 Creative Writing Salon 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
12	13	14	15 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice.	16	17	18 Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
19	20	21	22 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice.	23 Children/YA Author Critique Group Barnes & Noble Cafe Mid Rivers 7:00-9:00 p.m.	24	25 Works-in-Progress 10:00-11:00 a.m. General Meeting 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
26	27	28	29 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice.	30 Open Mic Rendezvous Cafe 6:30-8:30 p.m.	1	2

## Big Idea—Continued from page 3

written, suspenseful story. I gasped at the surprise ending. No spoiler alert. You'll have to wait until it's published, but it's a must read for sure.

When not rescuing stray animals, Christine searches for an agent in hopes of publishing a romantic suspense, teen trilogy. She says the on-line resources and readily available staff at SW have helped her in her writing efforts by answering questions, offering encouragement, and providing opportunities like this contest. I say we're fortunate to be introduced to writers of such wonderful caliber. Congratulations, Christine. Hope your dreams come true!

Whether you're a new member, just getting to know SW, or a frequent follower, we're glad you are with us and want you to know we're here for you. Keep those entries coming! You might be the next winner who gets to tell us What's The Big Idea.

—Diane How



**ROAD TRIP  
BETWEEN THE PAGES  
WRITERS CON**

KEYNOTE: **STEVEN JAMES**

meet and greet party - agent/publisher pitches  
author headshots - best cover contest  
best audio book contest - mystery dinner theater  
12 writing workshops - awards breakfast  
networking - book signing  
(tables available)

Hosted by Springfield Writers Guild, Ozarks Romance Authors and  
Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers at the DoubleTree by Hilton.  
Glendalough Convention Center on site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS  
btpwriterscon.com btpwriterscon@gmail.com

**JUNE 19, 20 & 21 SPRINGFIELD, MO**

# SW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Creative Writing Salon

We still have openings in the Creative Writing Salon held at St. Charles City-County Library, Spencer Road Branch, 427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, Missouri. We meet on the second Saturday of the month, 12:00-2:00 p.m., usually in room 209, although that may change some months.

This is not limited to all genres. In addition to readings, critiques, and group discussions, we focus on a topic of interest each month as determined by the members. The weekly write-in, hosted by several SW volunteers, meets at the end of our sessions. Sometimes, both groups will meet in the same room. Join fellow writers as we spend a whole afternoon in a quiet atmosphere conducive to creating our next masterpieces.

## Saturday Write-In

Avoid cabin fever! Join fellow writers at the weekly Saturday Write-in at the Spencer Road Library. Every Saturday we invite writers to get away from their busy lives, come in to stay warm, and spend some time concentrating on their craft. Chocolate and other snacks are provided. Doors open at 2:30, and writing continues until 5:45.

**NOTE:** Starting in 2020, on 1st and 5th Saturdays, the write-ins will be in room 212. On 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weeks (usually 212, 209, or 210) will be booked under SW member names: Susan Moreland, Kevin Desrosiers, or Ryan Cort.

## Wednesdays in O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café

This group is now at capacity and cannot take new members. Any change to this status will be included in future newsletter publications.

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

*The House That Writing Built*  
Book Signing  
Thursday, March 26  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Spencer Road Library  
Room 240

### APRIL

Open Mic  
Thursday, April 30  
Rendezvous Cafe & Wine Bar  
6:00-8:30 p.m.

## Children/YA Author Critique Group

If you write or want to learn more about board books, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, middle grade or YA books, *Saturday Writers Children/YA Author Critique Group* is for YOU! We will also learn and talk about the industry and publishing world.

Meetings will be at:  
*Barnes & Noble Café*  
320 Mid Rivers Center Drive  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dates:

Thursday, April 23

Thursday, May 28

For questions, please contact Sue Fritz at [childrensyacrit@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:childrensyacrit@saturdaywriters.org)

For complete information and guidelines, go to <http://saturdaywriters.org/childrenya-author-writing-group.html>.

## Critique by Email

Saturday Writers offers Critique by Email to our members. Complete information and rules about this members-only service is on our website at <http://saturdaywriters.org/email-critique.html>

Join this group by emailing Susan Moreland at [emailcrit@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:emailcrit@saturdaywriters.org)

## 2019 Anthology Has Arrived



## Book Launch Rescheduled March 26

See website for how to order 2019 Anthology: *The House that Writing Built*.

Book launch will be rescheduled at a later date.

## Contest Updates

Our March meeting may be cancelled, but you don't have to wait to hear whether you are a winner in the February contest. Winners will be announced via email, SW website Contest page and April newsletter.

Contest entry dates will remain the same regardless of meeting cancellations. Submit your work online and pay via PayPal, or submit manuscripts and checks via U.S. mail **at least seven days before contest due dates**.

Please note there are three contests due April 25:

**Poet Laureate Contest:** Time; fifty lines maximum; up to three; free to SW members (\$7 for non-members)

**April Prose Contest:** 1940-1950s

**Poetry Contest for:** 1900-1910s, 1920-1930s, and 1940-1950s

See Contests menu on SW website.

# DEADLINE: SATURDAY, March 28!

**2020 Contest Theme: Decades**

**Prose:** 2020 Word Limit

**Poetry:** 50 Line Limit

**Begins:** 2/29/20

**Prose Deadline:** 3/28/20

**Poetry Deadline:** 4/25/20

## March Theme:

**1920s & 1930s:** Prohibition, stock market crash, women's suffrage and right to vote, Babe Ruth, the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, Hindenburg, Empire State Building, Golden Gate Bridge, etc.

We encourage you to think outside the norm and always read Contest Rules and Guidelines before entering.

# DEADLINES: SATURDAY, April 25!

**2020 Contest Theme: Decades**

**Prose:** 2020-word limit

**Poetry:** 50-line limit

**Begins:** 3/28/20

**Prose Deadline:** 4/25/20

**Poetry Deadline:** 4/25/20

## April Theme:

**1940s & 1950s:** World War II; nuclear weapons, Pearl Harbor, Colossus computer (first programable computer), things invented (Slinky, Tupperware, Frisbee, Jeep), Korean war, Elvis, Vietnam war, Golden Age of TV, Marilyn Monroe, Mickey Mantle, etc.

**Poetry Contest:** This contest includes poetry fitting February (1900-1910s), March (1920-1930s), and April (1940-1950s) themes.

## Poet Laureate Contest Theme: Time

**Poetry:** 50-line limit

**Cost:** FREE for members (\$7 non-members)

Up to 3 submissions per entrant

**Do not tell Robert Sebacher you are entering!**

**How to Enter:** Submit your entry electronically via the Monthly Contest Submission page on Saturday Writers website. If you are unable to submit electronically, see website for how to submit hard copy. It MUST be post-marked one week prior to the contest deadline. We will no longer accept entries in person at the monthly meeting; however, you can still pay for your entry at that time with check, cash or credit card.

# New FREE Online Short Story Workshop for 2020

Our first online short story workshop in May 2019 was a huge success. Three of the stories workshopped went on to win SW contests. That shows the power of working with other writers to fine-tune a story to a spit-shine. Jeanne announced at the January meeting that we would do the workshop again if someone volunteered to coordinate. Thank you to Ryan Cort for stepping up to take this on.

The workshop itself will start in May, but first we need to know who wants to play. If you join, you'll need to write an unpolished story by April 15. This workshop is open to all members, newbies and experienced. The purpose is to give and receive feedback on a short story of up to 2020 words (so you can enter it in a SW contest if you choose). It's a fun and educational experience, so come and join in.

We will focus on story structure, character, pacing, and yes, even grammar, working to polish and hopefully improve writing skills while doing so. If you've never critiqued before, no worries. You will learn how.

1. To join—email Ryan at [ShortStoryWorkshop@SaturdayWriters.org](mailto:ShortStoryWorkshop@SaturdayWriters.org) by **April 10** with a subject line of **Short Story Workshop**.
2. Short stories and creative nonfiction pieces up to 2,020 words (not yet polished).
3. **Start date is May 11** and will run for four weeks. Submit your story to Ryan no later than **April 15, 2020**.
4. Each week, you'll be assigned no more than two stories to critique and will have five days to do so. The overall number of stories you'll critique depends on the number of participants.
5. We'll be using Google Docs (super easy to use) so you'll need a Gmail account (free). If needed, we can host a short overview on how to use Google Docs.
6. Weeks begin on Monday and end on Friday—then you'll have two days to review comments, determine what changes to make, and re-upload your story.

## Open Mic Offers Opportunity to Read Your Work

Join fellow writers on Thursday, April 30 to write your latest masterpiece and cheer other's accomplishments. We'll be reading from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Rendezvous Café, 217 S. Main St., O'Fallon, MO.



# Bob Baker Presents 14 Easy Ways to Promote Your Book on Social Media at SW January Meeting



Our February 29 meeting featured speaker Bob Baker, who discussed growing awareness, attracting fans, and building a following using social media. Bob is a past president of the St. Louis Publishers Association as well as an author, musician, visual artist, actor, and improv comedy teacher.

Bob opened with a brief discussion of the advantages of having an on-line presence. “By being active on-line you put yourself in a position to be found,” he said. There are basically five reasons to post: educate, entertain, inspire, engage, and promote. To fully utilize social media, you should be posting content in all five categories.

There are many reasons why people shy away from using social media to promote themselves and their work. Some reasons include loss of privacy, too time consuming, and fear of negative feedback. It can be a frightening thing to post personal information on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Bob pointed out that only a very small sliver of social media users will not like you and your postings. The vast majority of users will not care about anything you post, and a few people will love you and your work. Find and target those people that you resonate with. Ignore the rest.

Here are Bob’s fourteen ways to promote you and your book using social media.

1. Celebrate a fellow author’s accomplishments
2. Post visual quotes (or create your own with Canva.com)

3. Ask a question (either/or questions work best)
4. Post photos of your creative workplace
5. Share a glowing review, comment, or publicity
6. Post a photo of you with an idol or someone you admire
7. Post a photo of you with a fan or group at an event
8. This day in history (writing history)
9. Offer a helpful tip related to your craft or career
10. Solicit questions about your craft or field
11. Thank friends, fans, and followers
12. Tap into hashtags
13. Broadcast live or upload a short video
14. Directly promote your book or author event



In summary you want to use social media to find new fans and remind existing fans what you do. It’s not that hard. If you chip away at it slowly, do a little bit every day, you’ll soon find that you have mastered the monster that is social media. Learn more about Bob at <https://bob-baker.com/>.

—Jeffrey S. Czuchna; Photos by Wes Ginther

## Meet and Greet: Getting to Know You SW Style



Delicious food, warm company, and a lot of laughs. What’s better on a cold wintry evening? After discussion over dinner, the group played a round of literary trivia. Do you know what novel has the single longest sentence? You would if you’d been there.

Our top scoring winners were Donna Reed, Sarah Angleton, Carol Roberson, and Jeanne Felfe, proving beyond any doubt each one of them is sharp as a tack.

—Pat Wahler, Story and Photos



On the Back Page with Tammy

## The Romance Market and Diversity

(Excerpt from my article for [DIYMFA.com](http://DIYMFA.com), "Creating a More Inclusive Romance Market.")

Have you read the new romantic comedy that flew off the shelves and sold out on its release day? It features a protagonist with multiple sclerosis attempting to find the love of her life. She needed a confidence boost and received hilarious dating advice from her friends and MS support group. It seems the biggest hurdle was her mode of transportation—guys couldn't get past her motorized wheelchair. The book stayed on the bestseller list for months. Don't rack your brain too hard: such a book doesn't exist. What a shame. Why doesn't it exist when, for example, there are 2,300,000 people worldwide with multiple sclerosis and statistics say 1:3 are in wheelchairs? Me, for one.

Unless you're a 24/7 cave-dweller, you've heard the call from publishers eager to read manuscripts dealing with diverse characters and/or situations. Why should writers of romance weave these tales of diversity? Readers are not whispering their desire for more diverse stories: they are demanding them.

There are so many experiences that are not explored or under-explored in romance writing. Here are just a few.

### Dimensions of Diversity in 2020

**Age:** How about a book with an octogenarian full of wisdom rather than a lonesome shadow staring out a nursing home window?

**Disability:** Any disability and make it real—a person with a disability doesn't always overcome their challenge or win the blue ribbon.

**Gender:** Take a Regency Romance: Women maintain a social status secondary to men, who most often are mega-wealthy and hold the title of duke, lord, or viscount. The



Tammy Lough

heroine is put in a position of "winning" one of these men to enjoy the pleasantries she desires. How we love a heroine who goes against the grain.

### Race/Ethnicity:

The romance market is in desperate need of more romances written by and/or featuring characters of under-represented races and ethnicities. Where race includes characteristics such as skin color, ethnicity also encompasses cultural factors such as nationality, tribal affiliation, religion, language, and traditions of a particular group. Showcase a custom of a culture and weave it into your romance. Just make sure it's organic to your character's experience.

**Religion:** (faith, practices, beliefs) Consider a couple who fall in love and share opposite religious beliefs coming to a positive, or perhaps not, resolution.

**Sexual Orientation:** LGBTQIA+ Stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and many other terms (such as non-binary and pansexual).

**Socio-economic Status:** Not the stereotypical rags to riches. Write a story that makes a real difference in someone's life.

Publishers aren't calling for professional romance writers to weave a second-hand story about a protagonist living a diverse lifestyle. They are looking for the author who truly lives the struggles she writes about, not topics on which they have no life experience and assume to know the daily trials of another person.

If you think of an idea for a manuscript with a diverse character, stop and ask yourself before penning the first word: Am I the right person to write this story? Is this story better told by someone with more authentic experience? I would also have the completed work read by sensitivity readers.

Here are two helpful links to guide you when writing a piece out of your area of experience:

[Writing Outside Your Experience: Handle With Care](#)

[Representation in Fiction: How to Write Characters Whose Experiences Are Outside of Your Own](#)

Authors—diverse, independent, and otherwise—would be smart to pay attention to this discussion. Are you paying attention?

Writers Write!!!

—Tammy Lough

### Saturday Writers Officers

#### President:

Jeanne Felfe  
[jeanne.f@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:jeanne.f@saturdaywriters.org)

#### Vice President:

Pat Wahler  
[pat.w@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:pat.w@saturdaywriters.org)

#### Secretary:

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#### Treasurer:

Diane How  
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### Volunteers/Chair Positions

Assistant Treasurer: Denise Scott  
Children's/YA Author Critique:

Sue Fritz

Christmas Party Chair:

TBD

Contest Chair: Heather Hartmann

Hospitality Chair: Bob Weismiller

Assistants: Diane How &

Ryan Cort

Information Table: Tammy Lough

Membership Chair: Denise Wilson

Members Online Critique:

Susan Moreland

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Gore Zahra

Newsletter Assistant:

Sherry Cerrano

Pre-Meeting Saturday

Works-in-Progress Café &

Creative Writing Salon:

R.R.J. Sebacher

Publicity Chairs:

Rose Callahan

Speaker/Workshop Chair:

Jeanne Felfe

Assistant: Tom Klein

Social Media Chair:

Heather Hartmann

Assistant: Rose Callahan

Website Maintenance:

Heather Hartmann

Assistant: Rose Callahan

Wednesday Works-in-Progress Café:

Jim Ladendecker

Write-In Chair: Brad Watson

Youth Outreach Chairs:

Nicki Jacobsmeyer & Sue Fritz

Our meetings are held at the Spencer Road Library located at  
427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, MO 63376.  
Meetings will usually be in Room 240.