

Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild *Newsletter*



September 2024



“Words are sacred. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones, in the right order, you can nudge the world a little.”

- Tom Stoppard

Welcome to our September Newsletter!

In this issue, Anita Joldersma shares some history about the guild, we are introduced to our literary cousin, the Tower Poetry Society, Christine Carleton writes about her experience attending Authors in the Park, the Anthology Team is asking for your help, and we have a new feature: Member's Corner.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please email Linda at: lindalambert33@gmail.com

Happy Writing!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Schedule

September 2024

A Little Bit of HMWG History

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Member's Corner

Guyline
Spencer

Tower Poetry Society

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Call for Editors

Anthology Team

Schedule: September 2024		
September 4	(Online Only)	Zoom Social
September 18	TBA	TBA



A Little Bit of HMWG History, by Anita Joldersma

It all started on February 9, 2017 — the first meeting of a writing club on the Hamilton Mountain dedicated to the art of writing. Barry Gottlieb arranged for us to use Neighbour to Neighbour's second-floor meeting room for our gatherings on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2 - 4 p.m. This arrangement worked well until they needed the space to prepare for their Christmas Hamper program. We started to meet at the Concession Street Library on alternate Saturdays. After a few of our members found themselves with street parking tickets, we made the change to alternate Wednesday evenings at Terryberry Library, where we have been meeting since December 6, 2017.

During the first summer, after some enthusiastic conversation led by Shane, we wanted to add a small group element to our club. Not without a few bumps in the road, we then included separate meetings as writing teams to further our writing experience.

In the past, a few names for the Guild had been tossed around. We started with 'The Mountain Writing Enthusiasts Club', then came the 'Writing Enthusiasts Book Club', and then the 'Hamilton Mountain Writing Club' until we finally settled on the 'Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild'.

Member's Corner

From Guylaine Spencer, a member of Writing Team 5:

I'm currently working on my second draft of a historical novel about Canada after the Second World War, and I am interested in finding someone who is also writing a novel, around the same stage of the writing process, who would like to exchange feedback. This would mainly be through email or phone.

If you're interested, please email me at:
spencerg2001@yahoo.com

Thank you!





Tower Poetry Society, by Linda Lambert

The Tower Poetry Society has been promoting poetry since 1951 and is the oldest self-funded poetry workshop group in North America. Meetings began in the "Tower" of University Hall at McMaster University, hence, Tower Poetry. They host monthly workshops where poets from all ages and stages, can read their poems and have them critiqued. I'm a member and can attest that the meetings and events are fun and helpful!



TOWER POETRY SOCIETY
presents

Poetry Workshops

Saturdays, 2:00 to 4:00pm

Westdale Library
955 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

September 14, 2024 January 11, 2025

October 19, 2024 March 8, 2025

November 9, 2024 April 12, 2025

Is there a budding poet in you? Are you a seasoned wordsmith in search of feedback? Bring along your original poem (~12 copies) to share with fellow poets and receive constructive criticism.

*"A word after a word after a word is power."
Margaret Atwood*

Workshops are free; all are welcome.



Authors In The Park, by Christine Carleton

Another sunny but hot day greeted attendees of Bill King's 'Authors in the Park'. Plenty of trees provided shade along the asphalt path that wended through the southwest corner of Victoria Park. About twenty authors had tables set up displaying their work. If you stopped to have a conversation with them you could learn about their struggles, triumphs, and perseverance. All the stories had one thing in common: the writers never gave up, and they had a story to tell and needed to tell it. Genres varied from Sci-Fi, Biography, Memoir, Romance, Murder Mystery, Self-Growth, Poetry, Children's Tales, and Hamilton's history.

Hamilton Publishing House Wolsack and Wynn were also in attendance and gave great insight into the changes in the publishing world and the revised need for agents. I was also able to discuss the development of AI and the effect it has on the industry.

Mike the Relic Hunter had a table with displays of items found in and around Hamilton with a few of the items for sale. The 95 Taco Truck was on hand for those feeling hungry or thirsty, and there was also a wandering minstrel playing the mouth organ.

This event was well organized and was attended by new and upcoming authors as well as some of our members. Two tables featured books produced by the members of our Guild. I am sure that Bill will host another one next year and it is an important event to support our Arts culture in this city.



Anthology Book VII: Call for Editors

The Anthology Publication team is recruiting editors!

Starting in January, editors will be working closely with authors to improve submissions for the book's publication. In practice, we expect to go back and forth between editors and authors multiple times to collaboratively polish manuscripts and make our final project as high quality as possible.

Prior professional editing experience is preferred, but not mandatory.

Once selected, the editing team will go through a couple of exercises before January, with the goal of getting some guided practice before submissions open.

If you are interested, you can reach out to the Anthology team at: anthologyhmg@gmail.com

Please note that if you are accepted as an editor you will not be able to submit writing to the Anthology contest, although you can still submit writing to the book itself.

Bi-Weekly Recap: August 2024

Last month, we had two bi-weekly meetings.

On August 7th, Anita Joldersma led a talk called "Talkin' 'bout Writin'". In it, we discussed what, as members, we want from Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild. We revisited our Mission Statement and specifically, what the Guild does and doesn't do. Anita asked us why we became members and some of the replies were as follows:

- For socializing
- For information on self-publishing
- For critiques from other writers
- For learning about the mechanics of writing
- How to use writer's prompts
- And, most importantly, for helping each other grow as writers!

On August 21st, Liam Oneill gave a presentation about scene structure, and how to implement Scene and Sequel to push the narrative forward, using:

- Goal
- Conflict
- Disaster
- Reaction
- Dilemma
- Decision

Liam then challenged us with a prompt to write a story using the elements of Goal, Motivation, and Conflict. It was really fun to hear all of the short stories that resulted from this prompt.

Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild



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