

# Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild *Newsletter*



May 2025



“When your story is ready for rewrite, cut it to the bone. Get rid of every ounce of excess fat. This is going to hurt; revising a story down to the bare essentials is always a little like murdering children, but it must be done.”

- Stephen King

Welcome to our May Newsletter!

In this edition, our first year anniversary issue, we introduce you to our panel of esteemed judges for this year's anthology; Anita Joldersma continues her history series on the previous anthologies; Bob Nothnagel updates us on Group 5; and we have a request for our writers.

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

Happy Writing!

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

**Schedule**  
May 2025

**Anthology VII:  
Meet the  
Judges**

**Guild  
Anthologies:  
Retrospective**  
Anita  
Joldersma

**Group 5  
Updates**  
Bob Nothnagel

**Baseball Bats  
Float**  
Linda Lambert

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Schedule: May 2025		
May 14	Garvin Nunes	Writing Prompts
May 28	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

## Judges for HMWG Anthology VII: Neighbours

Jenn Horwath is a librarian with a penchant for cats, cardigans, comfy shoes and alliteration. She enjoys reading, writing and running. While she hasn't yet published anything creative, she has published in academic journals. She believes writing creatively is a crucial way for people to explore and understand their world. A proud Hamiltonian for over 20 years, she is thrilled to be supporting the work of the Hamilton Mountain Writers Guild for this year's anthology.



John Terpstra's most recent publication is "A Carpentry of Words and Wood", a memoir of his career as a poet/writer and cabinetmaker/woodworker. He has won and been shortlisted for many awards, included the Governor General's and Charles Taylor Prize. One of his poems, called Giants, is inscribed on a plaque that stands in Sam Lawrence Park overlooking downtown Hamilton.



Mark Newman has been working in the news business for more than 40 years. Over that time, he has covered a wide range of news and sports events for broadcast, print and online platforms and has received Ontario Community Newspaper Association awards. In addition, he has served as an event emcee, community cable television program host, air show commentator, junior hockey play-by-play announcer and ring announcer for amateur boxing and professional wrestling. He is currently a reporter/photographer with Metroland Media covering west Niagara.



*The Anthology Team would also like give a special thank you to Karen Wood for sourcing out this amazing panel of judges.*

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## A Continuing Look at our HMWG Publications: Volume #3 - Part 2, by Anita Joldersma

Last month, we heard about how Volumes 3 and 4 came to be.

Volume 3 was divided into two categories: 2500 and 5000 word limit stories.

It was a thrill for these Guild Members to be recognized by the judges for their exceptional writing with prizes given to the top stories.

Next Month: Volume 4

Check out this link for a copy of Volume 3:  
<https://www.amazon.ca/Arising-Hamilton-Mountain-Writers-Guild/dp/1775060144>



Some of our proud storytellers who were a part of our third publication.



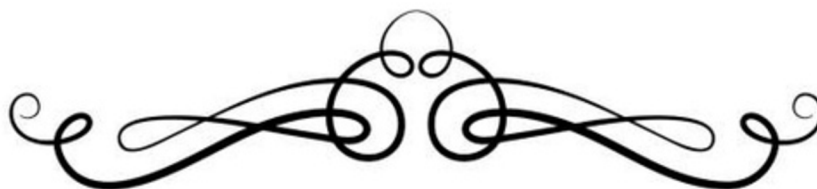
2,500 word category Prize Winners:

Vincent, Neil and Margaret



5,000 word category Prize Winners:

Bess, Michael and Teresa



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# Group 5 Updates, by Bob Nothnagel

Group 5, better known as Tuesday Night Writers' Group, is now meeting on Discord every other Tuesday at 7 PM. In addition to our regular submissions, we challenge ourselves to extra exercises such as descriptive paragraphs, dialogue, different POVs, etc. We also have larger projects for each of us in which we write in genres unfamiliar to us. Our current project is Historical Fiction, which is due in June.



Here are what our individual writers are up to:

## **Bob Nothnagel**

Bob Nothnagel began seriously writing in 2018 when he joined the Guild. Since then, he has published two books, *Tales Of Adventure, Murder, and Mayhem*, and *Tales From The Dark Side*, both available on Amazon. He is currently working on a fantasy trilogy. Bob enjoys writing mystery and adventure stories and doesn't mind delving into the darker side of the human psyche.

## **Sarah Mae**

Sarah Mae Conrad is a romantic comedy and family relationships writer. She's currently completing developmental edits for her Christmas rom-com novel while writing the first draft of a contemporary women's fiction novel. Her romance short fiction series, *M is for Meet Cute*, releases this May! Listen to a sample on CKMS-FM 102.7 at 2 PM on Sunday, May 25th. To read each story for free as soon as it comes out, subscribe to Sarah Mae's Substack at: <https://sarahmaeconrad.substack.com/>

## **Guyllaine Spencer**

Guyllaine Spencer has written non-fiction articles for magazines and websites for two decades but only started dipping her toe into the ocean of fiction two years ago. She's working on a historical novel and is writing short stories to hone her craft (and needs all the encouragement she can get). You can find links to some of her recent work at: <https://guyllainespencer.wordpress.com/>

## **Sheila Hanratty**

Sheila Hanratty worked in the Television Industry of Creative Services and Advertising for 25 years. Upon joining the HMWG two years ago she wrote her short story "Romance And The Wonder Grove" for the publication "Writing Through Time" Issue 2, Summer of 2023 in collaboration with HPL and McMaster University. She also wrote a short story entitled "Cemetery" which dropped to a podcast on October 26th, 2023. Presently her short story is in the editing stage to be published in HMWG's latest Anthology VII. Sheila is now completing the initial draft of her first Romance Genre novel set in the contemporary present and the past of the Victorian Era. One female protagonist gets to discover the life of another despite the barriers of time.

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## Baseball Bats Float (and other help from the editors), by Linda Lambert

I thought I had written a very clever and moving end to my story; one that would tie everything neatly together. It had to do with a baseball bat sinking to the bottom of a lake. You'll have to read my story for more details, but just letting you all know our editors are amazing! When I got my copy back with some very helpful comments and suggestions there was one major comment that made me audibly gasp!

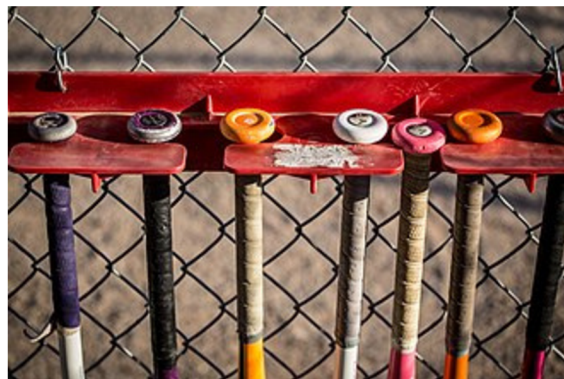
"I'm afraid a pretty big plot hole occurs to me: wouldn't a wooden bat float in the lake?"

OMG! I quickly googled, 'do wooden bats float', even though I knew the answer. So thank you thank you Michael Wagstaffe!

And now I'm asking you to share some of your editors suggestions and comments for our June Newsletter that will help your fellow writers. Was there something so obvious that you missed it, like me? Did you overuse a particular word or phrase?

Please send your experiences by May 23<sup>rd</sup> to: [lindalambert33@gmail.com](mailto:lindalambert33@gmail.com)

Thanks!



## Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild



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