

Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild *Newsletter*



July 2025



“Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show
me the glint of light on broken glass”
- Anton Chekhov

Welcome to our July Newsletter!

In this issue, Alexander Stepaniuk praises the writers who persevered through the editorial process for Anthology VII, Michael Williams launches Memoir Studio, Anita Joldersma continues her series on HMWG Anthologies and recaps our last three biweekly workshops.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, promote a literary event, or if you have any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you!
Please email Linda at
lindalambert33@gmail.com

Happy Writing!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Anthology VII

Alexander
Stepaniuk

Memoir Studio

Michael
Williams

**Guild
Anthologies:
Retrospective**

Anita
Joldersma

**Meeting
Recaps**

Schedule
July 2025

Anthology VII Editorial Process Completed,

by Alexander Stepaniuk

The HMWG Book 7 Anthology editors understand how personal writing can be. Many of you submitted drafts that you laboured over, edited, and polished both on your own and with your peers. To then receive critical feedback- and sometimes lots of it- is no small thing. It can be difficult. It can bruise one's ego. It can feel demoralizing. It can even feel like starting over.

But it's also an essential part of becoming a better writer. The difference between a promising draft and a published piece is often the willingness to accept productive criticism.

The editorial process doesn't look to diminish a writer's voice, but to sharpen it. Our editors looked at clarity, structure, tone, pacing, continuity, and all manner of other facets within submitted manuscripts. Their goal was to help bridge the gap between what writers intend and what readers experience. Our editors offered advice -and explanations- on how to help writers achieve their goals. These insights, in turn, offered guild writers a chance to improve not just their anthology story, but their craft as a whole.

The HMWG Book 7 Anthology Editorial team wants to thank the writers who went through that process. Don't let it sound like the editors were doing all the work; folks came in with an open mind and a willingness to dig deeper; bringing the same care and creativity to the editing process that they brought with their original submissions. Pieces became clearer and more engaging. Dialogue became smoother, themes more cohesive, and characters more consistent. The results speak for themselves, and in many cases, the transformations from the first draft to the final story were striking.

What writers accomplished during the editorial process goes beyond this simple project. Every cut made, every restructured scene, every fine-tuned sentence contains a lesson that can be applied to future projects. These experiences can help build habits and instincts that carry on- both in our personal projects and our ability to support one another.

On behalf of the Anthology Editorial team; thanks for the hard work, and keep it up!

**Writers for the Anthology are now working on their author bios as the judges read their manuscripts. We expect to announce the contest winner before the end of summer. If anyone has any questions they can reach us at: anthologyhmgw@gmail.com*



Introducing Memoir Studio: A New Home for Life Story Writers, by Michael Williams

After years of guiding writers through the transformative process of memoir writing, I'm proud to announce the launch of Memoir Studio—a dedicated space where memory meets meaning, and life stories are crafted with care. Memoir Studio offers a variety of programs for writers at all stages, from tentative beginners to seasoned storytellers. Whether you prefer in-person workshops, online courses, or one-on-one coaching, the studio is designed to help you move from memory to manuscript with clarity, confidence, and purpose.

What makes Memoir Studio unique is its blend of therapeutic depth and literary craft. Drawing on my background as a certified Guided Autobiography Instructor, mental health counsellor, and end-of-life planning facilitator, I support each writer not just in telling their story—but in understanding its deeper significance.

I'm especially excited to invite members of the Hamilton Mountain Writers Guild to be among the first to explore everything Memoir Studio has to offer. As a thank-you for your support and shared love of storytelling, members of the Guild are eligible for a 10% discount on all courses and products.\

To receive your personal discount code, simply email me at michael@memoirstudio.ca and mention your Guild affiliation.

The journey of writing a memoir is both brave and beautiful. If you've ever thought, "I should write this down someday," now might be the perfect time. Memoir Studio was built to support that moment — and to help you begin.

Visit www.memoirstudio.ca to learn more, explore upcoming programs, and take the first step in telling your story.

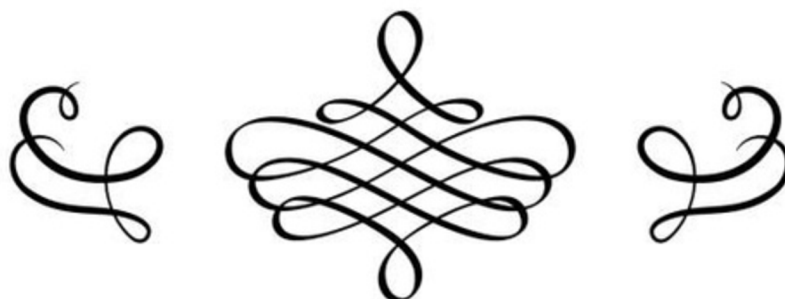
Warmly,

Michael Williams

Founder, Memoir Studio

Hamilton Mountain Writers Guild

Group 2 Facilitator



A Continuing Look at our HMWG Publications: Volume #4 by Anita Joldersma

Volume 4 had a larger word limit for each story: 8,000 words.

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



These Guild Members were delighted to be recognized
by the judges for their exceptional writing.

Rebecca, Jim and Karel

Guild Meetings Recap, by Anita Joldersma

May 28, 2025

We watched and then discussed two Oregon State University Writing Series videos on YouTube - one comparing writing to other artistic expressions and the other about genre.

June 11, 2025

Michael Williams presented an excellent talk on scene vs. summary.

June 25, 2025

Anita led a discussion on social media pros and cons and we also discussed marketing ideas which is getting more exciting as we get closer to Book 7 coming to fruition.

A reminder that most of our meetings are also available to attend on Zoom in the present time and also to watch as a recording later (available on the Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild - Member Page on Facebook). Special thanks go to Michael Wagstaffe for setting up the Zoom calls, monitoring them through the meetings, chasing the camera and microphone around to anyone speaking and then posting the recording. It is one of the many things Michael does for the Guild and we are very grateful.

Schedule: July 2025

The Writers' Guild Meeting for this month will be held on July 9 and July 23.



Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild



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