



WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC.

ENCOURAGING, SUPPORTING AND EDUCATING
WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO WRITE



E-mail: info@womenhowrite.com

Mail: P.O. Box 6167
Louisville, KY 40206-0167

On the Web: www.womenhowrite.com

Phone: 502-632-2241

WOMEN WHO WRITE 2012 INTERNATIONAL POETRY AND SHORT PROSE CONTEST IS NOW OPEN

Time to review your files and start hammering on your best ideas – the 2012 *Calliope* is in the works! The contest is open for submissions, and members can start the process of submitting work for our anthology now.

A quick “refresher” for members

- Women Who Write members may submit work for inclusion in *Calliope*, but are ineligible to win the International Poetry & Short Prose Contest.
- Members must follow the same submission guidelines as non-members.
- Members also must read their submissions aloud at a Women Who Write meeting at least once for feedback. Pieces that require extensive work may need to be read and critiqued twice before being accepted for publication.

If you know someone who may want to submit work for the contest, please forward this overview of the rules. Be sure to [visit our website for details](#), including formatting requirements and other guidelines.

Contest rules – the short version

- Open to women 18 or older.
- Women Who Write retains one-time publication rights, after which all rights revert to the author.
- Entries must be previously unpublished.

- Prose can be fiction or non-fiction; no more than 3,000 words, please.
- Include a \$12 entry fee for each poem or story you submit; submissions will not be returned.
- Deadline is June 30. Late entries will not be considered.
- Winners will be notified in August by phone.
- Women Who Write members are not eligible to enter the contest.

Judging and Awards

First, second, and third place winners will be selected in the prose and poetry categories (six winners total) by independent judges in a blind judging. Decisions of the judges are final.

Prizes:

First place: \$300, publication in *Calliope*, and up to five copies of *Calliope*

Second place: \$200, publication in *Calliope*, and up to five copies of *Calliope*

Third place: \$100, publication in *Calliope*, and up to five copies of *Calliope*

Submit online at WomenWhoWrite.submishmash.com/submit, or mail hard copy to **Women Who Write, P.O. Box 6167, Louisville, KY 40206.**



More Confusion Lies in Wait

It's come to my attention that a recent column only scratched the surface of the confusion surrounding the two past tenses of the verb **lie**. Not only is one of them, **lay**, a present-tense verb in its own right, but myriad idioms and phrases use both verbs in specific situations.

For a refresher, let's look at the verbs in question with the past tense and past participle forms:

Lay – Laid – Laid = put or place

Lie – Lay – Lain = recline

Lie – Lied – Lied = not tell the truth

Those are the basic forms and simplest definitions. Now let's break it down, starting with the most diverse.

Lay – Laid – Laid

Verb (used with object)

- ✍ To put or place something
- ✍ To put or place in a particular position: *the dog laid its ears back*
- ✍ To cause to be in a particular state or condition: *their motives were laid bare*
- ✍ To place in an orderly fashion: *lay bricks*
- ✍ To place on, along, over, or under a surface: *lay a pipeline; lay red paint over the primer*
- ✍ To establish as a basis: *lay the foundation for further negotiations*
- ✍ To present or submit: *I laid my case*
- ✍ To bring forward or make, as a claim or charge
- ✍ To impute, attribute, or ascribe: *lay blame*
- ✍ To bury: *they laid him in the old churchyard*
- ✍ To impose as a burden, duty, or penalty: *lay an embargo on shipments*
- ✍ To place dinner service on (a table); set
- ✍ To devise or arrange, as a plan
- ✍ To set (a trap)
- ✍ To locate: *the scene is laid in France*
- ✍ To smooth or make even: *lay the nap of cloth*
- ✍ To bring (a stick, lash, etc.) down, as on a person, in inflicting punishment
- ✍ *Nautical*: to move or turn (a sailing vessel) into a certain position or direction

Verb (used without object)

- ✍ To lay eggs
- ✍ To wager or bet
- ✍ To apply oneself vigorously (*lay into*)

- ✍ To deal or aim blows vigorously (usually followed by *on, at, about, etc.*)

Some common phrases

Lay aside, lay away, lay back, lay by, lay down, lay for, lay into, lay off, lay open, lay out, lay over, lay to, lay up

Idioms

Lay a course, lay aboard, lay close, lay it on thick, lay low, lay oneself out, lay siege to, get laid

Whew! This is one busy verb. Even with all these meanings, the conjugation remains the same. If you get confused, try substituting "put" or "place." If the sentence still makes sense, use a form of "lay." Go back and substitute "put" for the examples in the definitions above.

Lie – Lay – Lain

To recline, to rest horizontally, be level, be flat, be immobile, be inactive, continue, wait, remain quiet

Some common phrases

Take lying down, let sleeping dogs lie, make one's bed and lie in it

Idioms

Lie by, lie down, lie in, lie over, lie up, lie with, lie down on the job, lie in state, lie low, lie to

"Lie" is a little more settled and doesn't have nearly as many meanings – but conjugation may cause problems, because the past tense is the same as the present tense of the first form of the verb.

Lie – Lied – Lied

All definitions of this word have to do with not being truthful in some degree.

Some common phrases

Lie through one's teeth, lie like a trooper, lie like a rug, to lie in one's throat, give the lie to

This one is pretty easy. If truthfulness is the topic, the conjugation is *lie – lied – lied*.

To wrap up, think about the meaning you want to convey. If you can substitute "put" or "place" for the verb, use a form of "lay." If you're talking about reclining or being still, use the irregular form of "lie."

To test yourself, Google "lie lay test" and see how much you've learned. And for definitions of all the idioms and phrases, go to Dictionary.com and enter the verb.

Got a writing issue? Email Cheri at writing_cheri@yahoo.com. Please put "question" in the subject line. All inquiries will be addressed in future columns.

Editor's Note



2012 is off to a great start! The annual contest is up and running, our members are *all over* the news, and we're planning some exciting opportunities for Women Who Write.

Busy as we are, it can be tough to focus on writing, and even harder to find inspiration when the task becomes – well, *quicksandy*. If you've struggled with a plot that wanted to spiral out of control or a main point that kept disappearing into the weeds, you know what I mean. Sometimes the best inspiration is to let someone else take the reins for a bit.

I get inspiration from reading: connecting the dots between the author's point and something in my own experience, then letting my imagination take a leap. I recently found just such inspiration in the Base Exchange at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

I was shopping with my son, a U.S. Airman, and among the vendors' booths in the mall, I spotted a young woman at a table full of books and T-shirts. I'll admit it was the shirts that caught my eye – black with bold pink script that said "Real Divas READ!" I loved the attitude.

The woman, LaShanda Michelle, confirmed she was the author, and we chatted a bit. I asked how long she'd been writing and got the perfect answer – my own answer, to be exact: "I've been telling stories all my life." I told her a little about my own work, then picked up one of her books and read the blurb on the back cover. It rang a very resonant emotional bell. Since I had a long flight back to Louisville later that day, I decided to buy the book, just to keep myself out of trouble.

Casting Down Imaginations is a "niche" book on the surface. The author is young, black, and fairly traditional in her views. That didn't slow me down much – I've been a fan of Amy Tan for years, and I'm not Chinese-American. Good women writers sail across ethnic borders without ever slowing down. Behind the conflict between Tan's traditional Chinese mothers and their modern American daughters is the same loving wrangling of my own experience, as a daughter and a mother. And the struggles of the characters in *Casting Down Imaginations* were startlingly familiar to my 19-year-old self, who's still in here somewhere, even after nearly 40 years.

Both young women are headed for college. Karen, still dealing with the painful aftermath of her adolescent rebellion, sets out determined to do well, stick to her principles, and come out on top. Anaya doesn't yet have

all the wildness out of her system – she can't wait to get away and do as she pleases without limitation. (Been there, done that, wore out the T-shirt.)

Ultimately, both women find paths to success, but "success" isn't what either of them initially envisioned. Family drama, internal and interpersonal conflict, and crises of faith test them both; growing up isn't easy for these young women.

LaShanda makes their stories completely real. Anaya and Karen aren't just believable; they're *alive* on the pages. The dialogue flows so naturally the reader can *hear* it – a couple of phrases have started to creep into my own middle-aged-white-woman vocabulary. (Insert blushing smiley face here. I sometimes feel a tad silly when I open my mouth and a 20-year-old pops out.) Family members are beautifully imperfect people; an old boyfriend is an endearing jerk; the right thing to do is sometimes clear as mud (don't I know it!), and at other times totally obvious and apparently unattainable.

I'll admit to having reservations when I bought *Casting Down Imaginations*. I sit decidedly to the left of political and social center; based on the blurb, I didn't get the sense Karen, Anaya, and I would see eye to eye on many issues. So I was pleasantly surprised by the straightforward, non-judging perspective. It didn't matter that we might disagree on some points of behavior or even theology. The important thing was that we – Anaya, Karen, and the 19-year-old Cynthia – all learned, eventually, to be true to our own values, whatever they might be.

LaShanda's books are self-published and available on Amazon in paper and Kindle versions. The only problem I had in reading *Casting Down Imaginations* was the occasional formatting error; it happens sometimes in self-publishing. It's distracting to read half a paragraph, have it end in mid-sentence, then turn the page and find it starts over again. Springing for an independent editor is always a good idea. In this case, though, it's a relatively small thing – stickler though I am, the story was strong enough that the few errors didn't put me off.

As women who write, we owe it to ourselves to share our gifts with each other. I've found inspiration from LaShanda Michelle's book, as well as her confident – and successful – self-promotion. And the fact that she has three books already in print and selling well has inspired me, too – if she can do it, so can I!



Cynthia C. Canada

Member News

Tuesday Feb. 7 – *Self Publishing For Virgins* author **Peggy DeKay** will have an encore speaking engagement to discuss *How To Self Publish Your Book*. Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 7-8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9 – **Peggy** also will speak to the [International Association of Business Communicators](#) on *Building Your Business With a Book*. U of L University Club, 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11 – Susan Lindsey, Morgan Eklund, and Cynthia Canada talk with Sheri L. Wright, host of “From the Inkwell,” about *Women Who Write*, the 2011 *Calliope*, and the 2012 Poetry and Short Prose Competition. [Crescent Hill Radio](#), 1 p.m. [Check the homepage for online streaming options.](#)

Saturday Feb. 18 – **Peggy DeKay** will teach a half-day workshop on *How to Promote and Market Your Book*. The Carnegie Center, Lexington, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Enroll at [CarnegieCenterLex.org](#).

Peggy DeKay teaches *How to Self Publish Your Book* at two locations this month:

Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 21 – U of L Shelby Campus in eastern Jefferson County. Four consecutive Tuesday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register at [louisville.edu/lifelonglearning](#).

Beginning Thursday, Feb. 23 – Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. Four consecutive Thursday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register at [ius.edu/noncredit](#).

Other cool member updates:

If you’ve read this far and haven’t yet checked [the new Women Who Write website](#), stop reading and get out there *now*! A big “thank you” to **Morgan Eklund** for all her hard work.

Kay Roberts has been accepted into Spalding's MFA Program, residency only. She will participate in the program this May.

Peggy DeKay’s book, *Self Publishing For Virgins*,

has been accepted for sale at the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea.

Deanna O’Daniel’s poem, “Love Never Lost,” was published in the February *Highlander*.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new members from December and January:

Ambassador Attallah Shabazz
Dr. Renee Campbell
Heather Walker

Area events:

Monday, Feb. 6 – Louisville – Kentucky Foundation for Women’s **Art Meets Activism grant workshop**. Anyone interested in feminist art for social change is welcome to attend. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Louisville Free Public Library, Main Branch Centennial Room, 301 York Street. Call **Rae Strobel** at 502-562-0045 if you have questions, or RSVP to rae@kfw.org.

Tuesday, Feb 7 – Lexington – **Kentucky Great Writers Series**: Featured readers are **Nikky Finney**, **Bobbie Ann Mason**, and **Ed McClanahan**. The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West Second Street. 6:30 p.m. open mic signups; 7 p.m. open mic; 7:30 p.m. featured author readings.

Friday, Feb 10 – Louisville – **The InKY Reading Series** is a monthly music and literature event held on the second Friday of the month at the [The Bard’s Town](#), 1801 Bardstown Road. This month’s featured readers are **Katerina Stoykova-Klemer** and **Alyssa Knickerbocker**. 6:30 p.m. open mic signups; 7:00-7:30 p.m. open mic; 7:30-8:00 p.m. live music; 8:00-9:00 p.m. featured readers. Always free, never a cover.

Sunday, Feb. 26 – Louisville – Calling all poets! The **Stone Soup Poetry Group** is looking for poets interested in reading their works at the group's monthly gathering the last Sunday of each month, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Bard's Town. Readers should bring eight of their best poems. If you’ve published chapbooks, books, or CDs, you’re welcome to bring those to sell, too. Featured readings are poetry only, but the open mic session includes prose works. Interested? Call **Sheri L. Wright** at 502-424-6751. Members of *Women Who Write* who have work published in the new *Calliope* may bring copies of the anthology – contact Susan E. Lindsey if you need copies to sell.

DID YOU NOTICE?

We have more space devoted to member news this month than to other area events!

Women Who Write ROCK!
Keep those announcements coming.

Contests:

TARCHER/PENGUIN NOVEL CONTEST

www.tarchertopartist.com/writing-competition-details/

NO ENTRY FEE

Tarcher/Penguin is celebrating the continued success of Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* by presenting the Seeking the Next Top Artist Writing Contest. The top prize is \$5,000 and a manuscript review by a Penguin editor. Julia Cameron will select the winning entry from 10 semi-finalists. Writers residing in the U.S. may submit an unpublished novel, novella-length fiction, or a work of narrative nonfiction. Limit one entry per person.

Deadline: March 2, 2012.

AMAZON BREAKTHROUGH NOVEL COMPETITION

www.amazon.com/Breakthrough-Novel-Award-Books/

NO ENTRY FEE

Amazon.com, in partnership with Penguin Group (USA) and CreateSpace, has announced the fifth annual Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award, an international competition seeking the next popular novel. The competition will again award two grand prizes: one for

general fiction and one for young adult fiction. The 2012 competition is also open to novels that have previously been self-published. Each winner will receive a publishing contract with Penguin, including a \$15,000 advance.

Open submissions: Jan. 23-Feb. 5, 2012. Don't delay – only the first 5,000 entries will be accepted in each category.

TINY LIGHTS ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION

www.tiny-lights.com/contest.php

\$15 ENTRY FEE

Tiny Lights invites entries that feature a distinctive voice, discernible conflict and an eventual shift in the narrator's perspective. We are looking for writers who weave the struggle to understand into the fabric of their essays. This year, we offer five prizes in the standard category and three "Flashpoint" prizes. Standard word count is 2,000 words. For Flashpoint essays, the word count is 1,000.

First Place: \$350

Second Place: \$250

Third Place: \$150

Two Honorable Mention Prizes: \$100 each

Three FLASHPOINT prizes: \$100 each

Deadline: Feb. 17, 2012.

ACCENTI WRITING CONTEST

www.accenti.ca/writing-contest

\$20 ENTRY FEE

The contest is open to prose works. Entries can be fiction, non-fiction, or creative non-fiction. Entries must be previously unpublished and not under consideration by any other publication. Limit 2,000 words. Limited to English.

Top prize: \$1000 (CDN) and publication in Accenti

Second Prize: \$250 (CDN) and publication in Accenti

Third Prize: \$100 (CDN) and publication in Accenti

Deadline: Feb. 7, 2012.



WOMEN WHO WRITE, INC. was co-founded in 1992 by Carridder “Rita” Jones, a Louisville, KY playwright, author, and historian. Our mission is to encourage, support, and educate all women who aspire to write.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and we will gladly accept your tax-deductible donations.

**HELP US ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION:
DONATE TO WOMEN WHO WRITE**

Our mission at Women Who Write is to welcome, encourage, support, and educate women who aspire to write. Our vision is to be the “go to” place for women writers. We are committed to helping women of all skill levels use writing as a creative force in their lives.

Your contribution can make a real difference.

Please support the work of our organization with a tax-deductible donation by going online to WomenWhoWrite.com/shop and clicking “Donate,” or mailing a check to **Women Who Write, P.O. Box 6167, Louisville, KY 40206-0167**. Thanks!

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 anthology

Public readings
Annual retreat

Workshops
Annual retreat

Guest lectures
Annual awards ceremony

Come and grow with us!

Regular meetings:

First Thursday each month in the Highlands-Shelby Park Library,
Mid City Mall
1250 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.