



Swanton Writers Group Newsletter January 2025

The Swanton Writers Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6 PM at the Swanton Library. All writers or anyone interested in writing are welcome. The January meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 16, 6 -7 PM** at the Swanton Library. For more information or to sign up for the newsletter, contact Becky Rupp at rebeccarupp@gmail.com.

Topic to discuss:

You've got ideas and you'd love to write – but somehow you never seem to get around to it? What to do? What do *you* do? Let's talk about it!

IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to Vicky Garred, winner of the Edwin Church Challenge for her short story "The Border."

This year's Vermont Reads book is the YA novel *Gather* by Kenneth Cadow – a National Book Award Finalist. For information about book and author and links to Vermont Reads events, see <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/programs/book-a-program/vermont-reads/vermont-reads-2024/>. Applications for projects will be accepted through June 30, 2025. Check out a copy of the book at the Swanton Library!

See the Burlington Writers Workshop at <https://bwwvt.org/> which offers online and in-person classes and workshops in a wide range of genres, including fiction, nonfiction poetry, plays, songwriting, horror fiction, and flash fiction. There's also a weekly Lit Group for readers.

Check out the upcoming events at Phoenix Books – starting with a virtual book launch on Tuesday, January 7, at 7 PM for Laurie Forest's new fantasy, *The Dryad Storm*, the finale of the popular Black Witch Chronicles series. See <https://www.phoenixbooks.biz/events>.

It's not too late! The Winter Anthology Writing Contest offers an annual prize of \$1000 for a group of poems, a short story, a novel excerpt, or an essay. Entry fee is \$11; deadline is January 10, 2025. See <https://winteranthology.com/>.

The Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Award competition has an early-bird deadline of April 1, 2025. Categories include literary fiction, genre fiction, nonfiction, self-help, memoir, and children's literature. See <https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards>.

Also see the Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition (early-bird deadline: May 5, 2025). Writers can submit in several categories including inspirational/spiritual, memoir/personal essay, nonfiction essay or article, genre short story, literary short story, poetry, humor, and children's/young adult fiction. For details, see <https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

What books made a difference to you? Let's talk! Come share!

Edited by Roxanne J. Coady and Joy Johannessen, *The Book That Changed My Life* (Gotham, 2007) is a collection of short essays by authors about books that made a difference – everything from *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Little Engine That Could* to *The Great Gatsby*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *David Copperfield*.

According to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, you can't step in the same river twice – both because it's no longer the same river and you're no longer the same person. So what about re-reading a favorite book? Edited by Anne Fadiman, *Rereadings* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006) is a collection of essays by 17 different authors about revisiting books they loved in the past.

What if you could repeat your freshman lit class? David Denby in *Great Books* (Simon & Schuster, 1997) did just that, returning to Columbia University and repeating his introductory Humanities course, re-reading and re-experiencing everything from Homer to Virginia Woolf.

Happy New Year to all – keep writing!

Becky