



Swanton Writers Group Newsletter June 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 talking about writing are welcome. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, June 19, 6 -7 PM** at the Swanton Library. For more information or to sign up for the newsletter, contact Becky Rupp at rebeccarupp@gmail.com.

IN THE NEWS

The 31st Annual Vermont Book, Postcard, and Ephemera Fair, presented by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association, will take place on Sunday, June 1st, 10-4, at St. Albans City Hall. Michelle and Eileen will be there!

For emerging writers only, the Masters Review Short Story Award offers online publications and a \$3000 grand prize for a story up to 6000 words in length. Deadline is August 2025; entry fee \$20. See <https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/>.

The Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition (named for Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter) offers a first prize of \$1500 for a story of up to 3500 words. Deadline is September 2025; entry fee is \$15. See <https://shortstorycompetition.com/>.

The Zoetrope Short Fiction Contest offers a first-place prize of \$1000 and publication for a story of up to 5000 words. Contest opens on July 1; deadline is October 1, 2025; entry fee is \$30 per story. See <https://www.all-story.com/zoetrope-all-story-short-fiction-competition/>.

Still up and running: Townsend Press is offering 20 prizes of \$1000 and (possible) publication for an essay of 2500 words or more on the writer's "personal religion" – his/her belief system about their role and purpose in the world. Deadline is June 30; no entry fee. See <https://www.townsendpress.com/news/2025-essay-contest>.

Remember to check out upcoming events at Burlington's Phoenix Books at <https://www.phoenixbooks.biz/events>. Coming up on June 10 is an evening with Alison Bechdel to celebrate her new comic novel, *Spent*; and on June 17th at 7-9 PM there's a panel with the winning authors of this year's Vermont Book Awards.

READING FOR WRITERS



This is a charmer. It's a series of letters written between Helene Hanff, author, of New York City, and Marks and Co., sellers of rare and secondhand books in London. It's an epistolary love affair, with books.

The 1000 [fill in the blank] Before You Die has had quite a run in publishing, as in *1000 Places to See Before You Die*, *1000 Foods to Eat Before You Die*, and so on, which can be intimidating, depending on how many years you think you've got left. On the other hand, annotated book lists are always fun, even when you have no intention of ever ever reading Balzac. Included is a helpful checklist.

By the author of *Lincoln in the Bardo*, essays about what makes stories work, based on examples from classic Russian short stories. A great interactive read as the author continually breaks into the text to ask questions of the reader.

Becky

