



Swanton Writers Group Newsletter May 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 May meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 22, 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



Woodstock's Bookstock: Festival of Words will take place this year on May 16-18. Author events and workshops are free, but registration is required. The festival also includes live music, exhibits, and a huge tent sale of used and rare books. Well worth the trip. See <https://bookstockvt.org/>.

From Judy Paxman and a creative cast of dozens, check out the complete (so far) Swanee saga on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/7FmQiWi4wQg?si=7pufhCG3DtaAQd6K>.

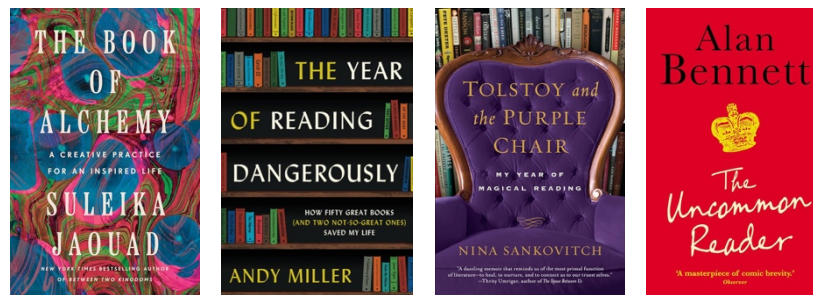
Attention short story writers - from the University of Georgia Press, see the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Submissions are open through May 31. For more information, see <https://ugapress.org/series/flannery-oconnor-award-for-short-fiction/>.

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>.

The Event magazine 2025 Creative Non-Fiction Contest is open for submissions through October 15, 2025. Entries must not have been previously published and have a 5000-word limit. There's a \$34.95 entry fee. See <https://www.eventmagazine.ca/contest-nf/>.

Remember to check out upcoming events at Burlington's Phoenix Books at <https://www.phoenixbooks.biz/events>. Coming up on May 6 is a get-together with artist/author Harry Bliss to discuss his new graphic memoir, *You Can Never Die*; and on June 10 is an evening with Alison Bechdel to celebrate her new comic novel, *Spent*.

READING FOR WRITERS



The Book of Alchemy

Suleika Jaouad. Random House, 2025.

A guide to the art of journaling and a meditation on the central questions of life, with input from a wide range of authors. Chapters include “On Beginning,” “On Memory,” “On Seeing,” and “On Purpose.”

The Year of Reading Dangerously

Andy Miller. HarperPerennial, 2014.

Miller – nearing his fortieth birthday – embarks on a quest to become a more mindful reader, starting with Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita*. The subtitle of the book is “How Fifty Great Books (and Two Not-So-Great Ones) Saved My Life.”

Tolstoy and the Purple Chair

Nina Sankovich. HarperPerennial, 2012.

Sankovich's “Year of Magical Reading” is a memoir of reading a book a day for a year – a project started to help her cope with grief at the loss of her sister to cancer.

The Uncommon Reader

Alan Bennett. Picador, 2022.

This is a priceless (and hilarious) novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading. The Queen and her corgis encounter a bookmobile parked near Buckingham Palace – and soon the Queen becomes as passionate reader, with far-reaching results.

Hope to see you in May - keep writing, everybody!
Becky