



Swanton Writers Group Newsletter September 2026

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, September 17, 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 Green Mountain Book Festival – with a theme of “Climate, Critters & Canopies” – will take place on September 19 in Burlington with events at Phoenix Books and the Fletcher Free Library. For more info, see <https://www.greenmountainbookfestival.org/>.

Check out September book events at Burlington’s Phoenix Books at <https://phoenixbooks.biz/events/2026/09>. There’s an Open Mic Poetry Event coming up, and on Wednesday, September 24, 7 PM, Stephen Payne will be there to discuss his newest book, *Almost April*.



Becky Rupp will be talking about “Paul Revere’s Rum, Ethan Allen’s Cider, George Washington’s Whiskey...and a Lot of Bathtub Gin: An Eccentric History of Alcohol” at the Milton Historical Society, Milton Grange, Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 PM.

The Vermont Reads 2026 selection is *Charity and Sylvia*, a graphic novel by Tillie Walden, the (true) story of a lesbian couple thriving in Weybridge, Vermont, in the early 19th century. Free copies of the book are available at the Swanton Library. For Vermont Reads discussions and events, see <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/events/category/vermont-reads/>.

If you're looking for a book club (all writers read, right?), there are many local possibilities: most libraries sponsor one, if not several, book clubs; and The Eloquent Page in St. Albans hosts at least three: a fantasy club, a true crime club, and a mystery club. For a schedule, see <https://theeloquentpage.com>.

The latest episode of Books and Beyond is on BAD books – from Northwest Access TV, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv5sAOXVWs4>. See Becky and Abbey say mean (but balanced) things about books that deserve to crash and burn.

Looking for submissions:

The Black Fox Literary Magazine is looking for cover art, fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. See <https://blackfoxlitmag.com/submit/>.

The Genre Society is looking for fiction (nothing over 5000 words) and poetry – deadline is September 30. See <https://duotrope.com/duosuma/submit/the-genre-society-6iw7J>.

The Freak is looking for short fiction (1000 to 25,000 words) in the fields of sci fi, fantasy, horror, romance, comedy, mystery and more. (However, no taking animals, smut, superheroes, haunted household items, or vampires, werewolves, witches, or zombies. Go figure.) See <https://www.thefreak.ca/submissions/>.

Anybody into historical fiction? Sundial Magazine is looking for stories set before January 1, 2000; they're also looking for works set between July 1936 and September 1936 on tensions leading up to World War II. Deadline for this last is October 1. See <https://sites.google.com/view/sundial-magazine/submissions?authuser=0>.

The Translunar Travelers Lounge is looking for speculative fiction – such as swashbuckling adventure, deadly intrigue, and/or gleeful romance. Submissions open from September 15 – October 15 for February issue. See <https://translunartravelerslounge.com/submissions/>.

Dragon Soul Press Anthologies is looking for submissions of 3000-20,000 words on themes for their upcoming anthologies. For “A Winter in Love,” they're looking for Christmas-themes stories in all genres, with a deadline of September 30.

Subsequent anthologies are “Next Door” (love stories with a happily ever after, deadline of November 30); “Across the Ages” (time travel; deadline of December 31); and “Rivals and Desires” (stories involving enemies to lovers; deadline of February 28, 2027).

See <https://dragonsoulpress.com/shortstorycalls/>.

Armchair Travel for Writers

Maps in fiction books first became a thing with Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, first published in 1883.

Literary Journeys

John McMurtrie, ed. Princeton University Press, 2024.

A chronological tour of the world through literature from the *Odyssey* through the *Canterbury Tales*, *Moby Dick*, and Kerouac's *On the Road*. Illustrated with maps, paintings, prints, and photos.

Literary Wonderlands

Laura Miller, ed. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2016.

A gorgeous overview of fiction's famous imaginary worlds, including everything from Alice's Wonderland to Kafka's *The Castle* and Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*.

The Writer's Journey: In the Footsteps of the Literary Greats

Travis Elborough. White Lion, 2024.

Travels and tours taken by well-known authors that influenced their lives and works. Included are Joseph Conrad, Isak Dinesen, Agatha Christie, Jack London, and Bram Stoker.

Novel Destinations

Joni Rendon. National Geographic, 2017.

Check out over 500 literary destinations across the US and in Europe – everything from Jane Austen's Bath to James Joyce's Dublin and Ernest Hemingway's Key West.

From the Smithsonian, see Great Travels in American Literature at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/great-road-trips-in-american-literature-42769879/>.

Keep writing, everybody – and hope to see you soon!

Becky