



The Write Life

Living the Write Life:

Becoming A Writer
Is Easy

Getting Into the
Habit

The Midnight
Writer Syndrome

Remember Who
You Aren't -
Part 1

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The Write Life

Inside This Issue :

Muse Food	-	In the Beginning	Page 3
	-	Live! It's Your Story!	Page 4
First Class	-	Becoming A Writer Is Easy	Page 5
	-	Do You Want To Be A Writer?	Page 6
Writer's Sphere	-	Getting Into The Habit	Page 7
	-	I'll Do It Someday	Page 8
Write Life	-	Midnight Writing Syndrome	Page 9
	-	Habitual Habits	Page 10
Literary Latte	-	Remember Who You Aren't - Part 1	Page 11

About Us :

The Fairfield County Writers Group (FCWG) of Connecticut was founded in 2008. Originally created as a regional chapter of National Novel Writing Month, FCWG grew into a local community of writers who are committed to writing not just in one month of the year, but every month of the year.

This magazine is an extension of that appreciation. It provides writing prompts and inspiration to craft new ideas; articles on how to better your writing skills, overcome writer's block, survive the life of a writer; and short stories.

Visit <http://www.FCWriters.com> for other offerings from FCWG.

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Muse Food

In the Beginning

Take one of your characters and place them in a purgatory type setting. No scenery, no distractions, no enemies. Just your character and you. That way there's no escape. Ask your character what he or she wants. Regardless of however random the answer may be, take it into consideration. Whether it is to rule the world, or get a slice of pizza. Your characters' wants and needs are what help drive the plot, and in-

cite conflict if you withhold their pizzas until the climax of the plot.

On the flip side, you can ask about their fears and their "kryptonite." What will they run away screaming from, or fall down dead if they touch? Best to know those before an accident you don't want to happen befalls your character.

One Words

Try basing a story with one of the below words:

Smiling
Relentlessness
Ambrosia
Clavichord
Defoliant
Earmuffs
Gantry
Archangel
Marauding
Chinchilla

One Liners

Try starting a story with one of the below sentences:

The mist rippled over the rocks.
He was as innocent as an incubus.
I don't trust a smile with that many teeth.
Purple bubbles?
It was cuter than death warmed over.
No, he's not a king.
It could only mean one of a thousand things.
Hold her steady, and never let go.
It rattled like a disgruntled snake.
She'll never know your story like I do.

Photographic Inspiration



Use an image as a starting point for a new story or to help jumpstart a sluggish scene.

Muse Food

Live! It's Your Story!

Have you ever imagined what one of your stories might look like if it were in a format other than a book? Movie? Screenplay? Video game? Series of YouTube videos? A story can have multiple portrayals depending on the format used.

Try taking a story and shifting the format for it. From novel to screenplay. From short story to video game. From poem to TV series. Or any combination you

feel like trying out. You'd be amazed what subtle changes can occur when you switch formats.

Some of my best story ideas come from flash fiction or poems. And I've even drafted songs based off of short stories. Give it a try, see what comes out.

One Words

Try basing a story with one of the below words:

Frazzle
Impeachment
Stingray
Footbridge
Headlock
Bullpen
Grog
Topographer
Penitential
Cliffhanger

One Liners

Try starting a story with one of the below sentences:

I will care for you, always.
Your little black dress looks more like a big white skirt.
Let's watch the world die.
I don't want to be your crutch anymore.
Why be down and out when you can be up and in?
I always order a Jack and Coke, without the Coke.
I'm off to save the world, right after this cup of cocoa.
With great power comes large electricity bills.
Changing course is a lot easier with a working rudder.
What could go wrong?

Photographic Inspiration



First Class

Becoming A Writer Is Easy

Is this it? Is this the year you're going to be a writer?
The year you're going to get serious?

Good for you. Being a writer is a dream you can attain very easily. Let me tell you how.

Are you ready?

Write.

It's that easy. The defining characteristic of a writer is that he or she writes. That's it. Start writing, and don't stop.

Congratulations. You're a writer.

But I want to be a good writer, you cry? Well, that's almost as simple. Not easy, but simple.

Write some more.

Being a good writer will take time and dedication and a lot of skills you've maybe never even heard of, but don't despair. The absolute most important thing you need, you can simply decide to have.

I am, of course, talking about persistence. Butt in chair, hands on keyboard.

Writers write. It's how we learn to plot, to create characters, to tell a story. On and on we write, sometimes adding in editing and reading, until we look back and in our wake lie a bunch of ruined ideas, four score failed story beginnings, half a dozen unfinished novels--and, if we're lucky, one complete manuscript.

Now you've done something. Now you've made provable progress. But you won't get there until you put enough words in the right order to tell your story. As Neil Gaiman said in a NaNo pep talk, "What matters right now are the words, one after another. Find the next word. Write it down. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat."

My first completed manuscript was 249,562 words. I decided one day in November of 1994 that it was time I either wrote a book or stopped calling myself a writer. I attained a Star Trek Generations poster-calendar (it was for 1995) and put it on my writing-room door. My goal was to run out of book before I ran out of calendar.

Every day that I wrote two pages, I could color in the date. If I missed a day, I had to write two pages for the current day, then four more to color in the previous day. If I'd missed two days--then it was bad. Two pages for

the current day, four to color the previous day, six to color the day before that... There were days I pondered moving the coffeepot in there. I smoked back then; eventually I had to ban smoking in the writing room. I could make myself sick, smoking cigarette after cigarette to keep my hands busy while I stared at that bleeping blank screen.

I tried to write every day, but I didn't do it. Many a day I pondered just admitting that I was Not a Writer. I remember a lot of June stayed white for some reason. But on December 30th, 1995, I typed "The End."

You can too, by following one simple rule. Butt in chair, hands on keyboard.

Writers write. Keep typing. So what if you did a whole NaNo and you're not even halfway through the book? Confucius said, "It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop." You can finish it. It may be absolute Hades to get back into it, but you can get back into it and you can finish it and nothing can stop you but you.

No one else can make you a good writer. Others can help, can show you the way, and you should read them. This, too, is simple. Read voraciously. Devour fiction that you like, fiction that you don't like but that others call good, biographies and biology and psychology and every other -ology out there, and pay attention to how the words are put together. It's important, and it will help. So will editing. But the most important thing, first and last, is that you write.

No one else can write your story but you. "I know the price of success," Frank Lloyd Wright said. "Dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen." Do you want to see your story happen? Do those characters, that world, those dreams inside you deserve better than to be kept locked within?

Give them better. Share them with the reading world. Readers are waiting to hear from you; they just don't know it yet.

Write. Give yourself the gifts of dedication, hard work, and devotion that your dream deserves. Never give up on something that you truly want. If you can't stop thinking about it, you need to do it. The pursuit of happiness is your inalienable right.

Write. And then write some more.

First Class

Do You Want to Be A Writer?

Being a writer isn't all fairytales and wonderland... unless you write YA fantasy novels. Then it tends to be a lot of fairy tales and wonderlands. Regardless of genre, being a writer requires time, dedication, effort, and a plentiful amount of patience while you revise your work into a novel you're pleased with. Not everyone can be the next Stephen King, Stephanie Meyer, Dan Brown, or other popular author of the moment. Some writers can struggle all their lives for a space of their own on a bookstore shelf.

It is our intent, that over the course of this year, and beyond, this magazine can help you on your way to becoming the type of writer you want to be. Whether it's writing young adult fantasy, non-fiction, horror, sci-fi, high fantasy, romance, or even literary fiction. It won't be easy, but we hope to make it fun.

The best methods for being a writer involve, as all things do, the basics. Writing down story ideas, characters, scenes, plots, and everything in between. Revising your writing until it shines. Knowing and understanding the quirks and eccentricities of grammar, and then bending the rules as you see fit. And above all, having fun with what you write.

Speaking from personal experience, I hated writing in school. It was always fix the grammar structure, or your characters aren't believable enough, or that word doesn't exist. I didn't want to learn the basics. Mainly because I thought I was above such things. I understood English, I was in high school, why should I have to go back to stuff taught in middle school?

Well for one, I didn't pay attention very much in middle school, or high school for that matter. I preferred to write at my own speed, even if that speed was like a bicycle with a rusty chain, bent wheel, and only one brake pad.

Over time, mainly in college, I finally accepted that grammar, punctuation, and properly spelled words do have a place in writing. Just don't tell my teachers that, they'd just say "I told you so." until the end of time. I re-learned how

grammar and punctuation can radically alter sentence structure. I then used that to tweak my writing to my own unique voice; straightening out that bicycle wheel a bit, and oiling the chain. I still write with only one brake pad though. Some habits are harder to break than others.

Once I became more capable of conveying just what I wanted to say in my writing, I enjoyed it a lot more. The red ink comments from teachers then changed to stuff like: your character needs more motivation, this scene isn't fully fleshed out, or you can't just cut off like that. My writing is still far from perfect, but as with all things in life, practice helps.

Write, learn, experiment, revise, learn some more, and repeat infinitely. Never stop writing, or trying new things. Learning the basics is the equivalent of creating a small frame for your story. Once the frame is up, you can do anything and everything around the frame. If you're unwilling to create the frame though, things tend to fall apart while you're working. Like trying to do origami with soggy paper, it just doesn't end well.

If you don't have fun with what you write, neither will your reader have fun reading it. Your feelings about what you're writing enter your work. Readers pick up on that. It's a weird sort of literary empathy.

Be ready to start carrying a small notepad and pen for jotting down ideas. Techie equivalents could also be a PDA, smart phone, or laptop even. I'm a fan of a stenographer's notepad. Not too small, but not too large. Then again I carry around a messenger bag almost anywhere I go, so I have space for carrying such things. Try and find something that fits in your purse, bag, or if need be pocket.

Also keep in mind that the urge to write can hit you at any time. Usually when you're ready for sleep, in the shower, or otherwise preoccupied. If you're a multi-tasker, you already have an advantage over writers like me. I prefer to do one action at a time. I'm still working on the whole sleep-writing technique.

Writers Sphere

Getting Into The Habit

It's been said that it takes two to four weeks to break a bad habit. I believe the same time length can be said for creating a good habit. And what better habit can there be for a writer than to write? Getting into the literary groove becomes easier if you have a steady habit of writing. Not whenever the spirit hits you over the head with a giant pen. Not when you happen to have a rainy day once a month. I'm talking about a semi-weekly if not daily writing schedule. The more often you write, the easier it is to keep the writers block at bay.

The trick is to write on a relatively steady basis. As with most activities in life, it's easier said than done. Finding the time to write, while juggling school, work, family, food, sleep, and avoiding alien invasions tend to be 24-hour a day jobs all within themselves. Tossing in writing usually feels like a good idea at the time, but implementation tends to fizzle once your nightly sitcom of choice is out of reruns.

The method I've found is to be aware of your daily schedule. Everyone has an hour almost every day where they can alternate between a low-priority activity and writing. Low-priority activities for me are keeping my room clean enough so sentient life doesn't start evolving in the various piles of random possessions, and trying to whittle down my To Be Read Pile of books (which is 50 books high right now). It all boils down to what activity can you hold off for a day to slip in a bit of writing instead?

As with all habits though it won't be quick and easy. Sacrificing an hour a week won't get you very far, especially if it's more of a "oh hey, I have a free hour." I've put writing in my schedule during my morning commute. As I take a train to work, I can get away with that. I also have about 2 hours in the evening

on weekdays where I can write if I don't have other obligations. Have I become a non-stop writing machine? Hardly. I'm a very good example of just how tricky setting up a habit can be.

I've been trying to set up a solid writing schedule for months, but life always finds a way to mess things up. Either I'm too tired to write on my morning commute, or I'm too hungry during my lunch hour to write, or I'm "not in the mood" on my evening commute. Overcoming my own inherent laziness is far from easy. But I beat myself up, metaphorically, until I write at least an hour's worth of something.

It doesn't have to be great, or even good. Just the fact that I've overcome my procrastination is a solid start for the potential of more writing. How else will I manage to get 50,000 words written in a month? How else will I compile enough material for this magazine every month? How else will I create all the various articles, worksheets, and books that I have planned? One word at a time, one day at a time.

Also, the more often you write, the more your muse will have to work with. All of your writing is fodder for your muse, akin to a self-replicating buffet. Your muse gives you ideas to write. You write the ideas, and the muse gives you new ideas from that. It's a win-win situation for both you and your muse.

So why not be kind to your muse and work on some of the ideas it feeds you? Every word you write down brings you that much closer to a finished product. Remember, current technology still prevents novels from writing themselves, so it's still up to us. So get writing, on a regular basis. Those habits won't start themselves either you know.

A word of warning, if you don't write your muse may run off with another writer. Those types of situations can get all sorts of messy. Best keep your muse happy by writing habitually, otherwise it may cheat on you. Most likely with your arch-nemesis or someone equally dramatic. Muses are like that after all.



Writer's Sphere

I'll Do It Someday...

It's amazing how powerful procrastination can preside over a writer's productivity. Whether it's for school, work, or your own sense of satisfaction, procrastination is a hard beast to beat when words need to be put down on paper. I've learned a few tricks to sidestep the slippery creature, tricks that can also work well against the ungainly writers blocks that try to take up residence right on top of whatever story you're working on at the moment.

Procrastination beasts and writers blocks only have one goal in mind: to keep you from writing. Productivity and words are anathema to them. A few methods I've found over the years to keep the words flowing are: peer pressure, blind writing, and bittersweet writing.

There are times and situations where peer pressure can actually be used for good. And writing is one such situation. Having a group of fellow writers to cheer or prod you onwards in your writing can do wonders when all you'd rather do is watch that movie for the tenth time, or even start cleaning under the fridge. Fellow writers can offer advice or toss ideas at you if you're stuck. They can also word war with you. A timed period, usually ten to fifteen minutes, where everyone writes as much as they can and whoever has the most words wins the war. A good half of my writing is done via word wars nowadays.

If you're not in the social mood, blind writing can also be effective. Blind writing is closing your eyes, or simply not staring at the computer screen or piece of paper. Just write as much as you can for as long as you can without looking. It doesn't matter what you write, or how much you write, just so long as you write. If you're not staring at the words, the writer's block doesn't know what to focus on. The same can be said for your inner editor. Without a visual connection to your work, the various beings trying to slow you down have nothing to grasp on to. Give it a try, it may be just the thing you need.

bittersweet writing. Bittersweet writing is a method of writing where, if you write a pre-set amount of writing, you get a sweet or a prize. If you don't make your pre-set goal though, you have to do something bitter or unwanted. If I hit a goal in my writing, I make myself a cup of celebratory tea, or have a cookie, or watch an episode of whatever show I'm addicted to at the time.

If I don't make the goal though, no tea, no cookie, no show. On top of that, I have to do something like clean a part of my room, or organize a stack of papers. Stuff that needs to be done but just not something I'm itching to do. That way productivity is still accomplished, even if writing is not. Hence the bittersweet moniker. This method is usually my last ditch effort to get writing done. Usually because at that point, my writers block is so well entrenched that I end up doing a lot of bitter things rather than sweet.

Everyone has different methods that work well for them. My current method of choice for literary productivity is to use a software program called Write or Die. It forces you to write for either a pre-set amount of time, or to a pre-set amount of words. If you stop, or stall for too long you're greeted with either a popup window demanding you to start writing again, or a cringe-worthy sound that won't stop till you start writing, or a kamikaze mode where your words vanish into the digital ether until you start writing again.

I'm a fan of 1,000 word sprints using Write or Die, with off-tune violins as a punishment for stopping. It is a surprisingly effective bittersweet style of writing. I'm not brave enough to use the kamikaze method though. Once I write a word, I want to keep it. At least until the revision process. Then all bets are off as to what will be saved and what will be tossed away.

Then again, productive revision and editing is an entirely different battle. Full of dangerously dangling participles, and dimensionally-challenged characters in need of more substance. But that my fellow writers, is for another article.

Write Life

Midnight Writing Syndrome

After a long day at work or school, the last thing anyone wants is to stay up until the very early dawn hours. Mostly because the alarm of evil goes off in four or five hours and any chance of actual sleep is ruined. This is perfectly acceptable on the weekends, because who needs sleep then? Or in December, after a month of hardly sleeping because of inhaling coffee just to stay awake enough to get the words out.

Imagine that you have gotten home after a long day of work, have fixed dinner, and if there are kids, they are tucked snuggly into their beds just in time for you to collapse in front of the television for some late night news. A half hour or an hour later, you stumble through the process of getting ready yourself and collapse into bed just minutes before midnight.

As you lie there, waiting to fall asleep, you start to get an itch. A little tickle, trying to wake you up. Your muse whispers into your ear ‘Come write! Come write!’, and suddenly, no matter how exhausted you were five minutes before, you are now wide awake and any chance of actually sleeping is now ruined. So you give in to your muse and drag yourself over to the computer and open that story you have been working on for the past few weeks.

Suddenly, it is three in the morning, and your muse has finally grown quiet. You crawl back into bed and burry your face into the pillows wondering why you got up to write – after all, that annoying alarm is going to be going off in a few hours.

Sound somewhat familiar? You might be suffering from midnight writer’s syndrome. It is an annoying, but very common occurrence among writers. Something like this is perfectly fine on a Friday, or Saturday night when there isn’t anything that you really have to do the next morning. It can quickly become a problem when it starts to show up on Tuesday nights, or the night before the day you have to present a project to your boss.

It can be very easy to give into the urges. Your writing may actually seem better if you write that late (or early, depending on your view point). Either an improvement brought on by muse-magic, or you are just so exhausted that it seems good because your inner editor and inner critic are sound asleep. Of course, it could just be that you are born a night- writer and that is

when you are the most productive and can bring out the best words.

Sometimes it can be fun to give into the call of your muse or the half finished story waiting on your computer. If you don’t have work the next morning, or if it is National Novel Writing Month is the best time because who needs to sleep in November? That, as all veterans of NaNoWriMo know is for December. Or for when you next get a break, which for students isn’t until after finals.

One of the best ways to combat midnight writer’s syndrome is to not get up. Curl back into a ball and ignore your muse until he or she goes away. Usually that can have rather bad side effects. Your muse might run away and hide in tears for a day or two, and you get no writing done at all during that time. Or you could end up lying awake until you fall into a coma- like sleep a couple hours later.

Another way, perhaps better, is to keep a notebook by the side of your bed. Some of you may have that for any strange dreams you may want to turn into plots. Get a different notebook, if that is the case. Then the next time your muse wants you to pull an all-nighter on a work night, grab that notebook, turn on a dim light bulb and scribble down a few lines in the semi-dark comfort of your bed. If full sentence handwriting is beyond your abilities that late, jot down a plot-outline for the next chapter or whatever it is that your muse wants you to write.

The dimmer lighting is not as brain-stimulating as a computer screen, even on its lowest light settings that you can read. Dim lighting will help to keep your brain in the “almost time for bed” mood so when you do give up on writing, you can just turn off the light, curl up, and not have to worry about trying to get comfortable again. A plus side is that you stay warmer during the winter.

It would be easiest in a way to ignore you muse for twenty or so minutes until they shut up, but the best option to combat those late-night writing urges is to use the plot notebook that we all love. Of course, it is still a possibility to trot off the computer for an electronic writing spree, which might seem like the best option if you don’t live alone.

Write Life

Habitual Habits

Everyone has certain habits that just come naturally. Writers are no exception to this odd law of the universe. I'm one of those people that fold straw wrappers or emptied sugar packets when I'm out at a restaurant. I'm also the type of person who needs a cup of tea next to me when I write. I take an initial sip while it's still hot, then promptly forget its existence until I've written for a while. Cold tea has become a staple to my writing process.

I know some writers have a whole elaborate process of actions and need-to-have items when they write. Most use a particular writing program whenever they write. From Microsoft Word, to Write or Die. I use Write or Die for novel writing, OneNote for article writing, and Word for business writing. Whenever I try mixing up my habits, my muse gets very confused and tends to wander off. Heavy doses of tea or coffee tend to resolve the problem though.

I also have the habit of writing a first draft on a computer, but editing on a printed hard copy. There's something very satisfying about a hard copy and a red pen. I know other writers who are the exact opposite, writing in notebooks and revising as they transcribe on to a computer. My notebook habit tends to be using those marbled notebooks for about 30 pages, or until the whole thing falls apart at the seams, literally. I am not kind to notebooks, and unless it's made out of triple-reinforced titanium I'll find a way of breaking it before I fill it.

I also tend to write on my bed. Sure, I have a desk, but there's something about laying in bed, propped up by pillows, typing away on my laptop. I've been known to write at bookstore cafés, but I still have a slight issue with the over-the-shoulder onlookers while I'm writing. The advantage of cafés are prime muse fodder from every passerby and café patron.

Page 10 The only patrons in my room are plastic dinosaurs and plush key chain



animals. A captive audience perhaps, but lacking in the liveliness of real people.

I also need music while writing. Others swear by the library-esque silent writing method, but I need background noise. I think having music while writing is what keeps my inner editor distracted. Like jingling keys at a baby, the noise keeps my inner editor entertained while I hammer out words behind its back. I habitually make playlists of scene music. Mostly movie soundtracks to cover fight scenes, dream sequences, a dramatic climax, or even a space race. A song to every scene and a scene to every song.

I've also been told that writers have habits about how they write a plot. Some bounce around, working on scenes all across the story's chronological line of plot. Others start from the beginning and work steady on towards the end. I seem to switch between the two options lately. One story is written strictly chronologically, while another is bounced from one day to another with no regard for continuity. To each their own.

As with all things, you need to experiment in order to figure out what best works for you. Variety is the spice of life after all. Try out different styles, times, methods of writing. See which ones are enjoyable and incorporate it into your daily routine. Without experimentation you won't know if there's a more effective writing method out there for you.

Literary Latte

Remember Who You Aren't - Part 1 of 4

“It’s important to remember who you aren’t” my parents were fond of telling me. They believed that there could be nothing worse than being a peasant. For a time, I believed them. When I was young, I thought that being forced to wear dirty, ratty clothes, to work all day, and not get delicious food three times a day would be like dying.

My parents were nobles, serving the crown in whatever way they could. But even though we lived the closest to the castle of all of the lords, we weren’t the king’s favorites. Not by a long shot. My father was just as stubborn and arrogant as the king himself, a thing that was ultimately his downfall. The king didn’t like it when people argued with him.

It was my tenth birthday. My father’s servants had prepared the house, cleaned it ‘til the flagstone floors practically shone. It was decorated, and the richer merchants were to arrive in just an hour or two. A feast had been planned, too, but that was just for my parents and me.

I was dressed in my favorite gown, a deep sapphire blue that my father claimed matched my eyes. Silver embroidery laced the bodice. Its skirt was full, extended halfway down my shins. It had been crafted a year before, for court. At the time, I had felt very grown up to wear such a long gown.

A knock sounded at the door. Myrtle, the head servant, opened it. Crowding into the courtyard beyond were seven men. They all had swords strapped to their waists and wore the royal colors. One stepped inside and handed a roll of paper to my father. I watched, curious, as he unrolled and read it.

His face turned pale. My father pulled my mother into his arms, whispered something into her ear and turned to face the guards, straightening his tunic. They flanked him, marching out of the house and onto the streets beyond.

My mother ordered the servants to tell the merchants that I was ill, and there would be no celebration. She knelt before me, russet colored gown spreading across the stones behind her. Her fingers gently smoothed my hair back from my face.

“Mama, I’m not ill. Why can’t we have the merchants come?”

“It wouldn’t be proper without your father here, dear.”

“But where is Papa? Why did the guards come for him?”

“The king wishes to speak with him, to hear his advice. Now, no more questions. Come, practice your embroidery.” She rose to her feet and took her place in a low-backed chair by the father, her own embroidery in hand.

My father hadn’t returned by sundown. Each time I had heard a noise outside, I rushed to the door, threw it open and looked out. It never was my father upon his return.

Dinner went on as planned, but one member painfully missing. My mother refused to answer my questions, and sent me to bed the moment the last course had been cleared from the table.

For a week, I didn’t see him. My mother told me that he was returning home late at night – at an hour that wasn’t proper for young ladies to be awake – and leaving again as dawn broke. I remember lying awake one night, refusing to fall asleep for fear of missing his footsteps in the hall. From my bed, I watched the sun rise the next morning.

I knew then that my mother was lying. My father couldn’t be advising the king – he hadn’t returned once for even a change of clothes. But even knowing that couldn’t prepare me for what was going to happen.



Upcoming Events:

January has our **NaNo TGIO Party**, scheduled for Saturday, the 9th. We'll be celebrating at Papaya Thai at 7 PM in South Norwalk, with drinks afterwards at the Gingerman Bar at 9 PM down the street. Addresses and contact info is on our regional calendar on our website.

We also have **online write-ins** on Wednesdays, starting at 7 PM. Join via our chat room on our website.

Next Month:

Next month's issue focuses on the topic of **The Write Lifestyle**. We'll also have new writing prompts, articles, and the continuation of Lauren's short story: Remember Who You Aren't.

How To Subscribe:

To subscribe, register on our website at: <http://www.FCWriters.com> to receive future issues, and read through our back issues, all available in .PDF format.

Brought To You By:

The FCWG is managed, maintained, and run by **Charles Muir** of New Canaan, CT. As Literary Director, he oversees the day to day operations of the writing group, produces this magazine, and schedules local events throughout the year.

The back-end, behind the scenes work is done by our Technical Director, **Calvin Williams** of Brooklyn, NY. Calvin single-handedly ensures that the website and all its components run as smoothly as possible.

Staff Writer **Lauren Welch** is currently a college student in Indiana. When she isn't slaving over class work, Lauren enjoys tormenting her muse to try and get something written.

Staff Writer **KD Crotwell** has held some twenty jobs so far, most having nothing to do with writing. This has given her great motivation to complete some nine novels in draft. In the Great Game of Publishing, she has achieved the status of "Agent Passed for Market Reasons." She is actively working towards "Agent Fainted With Joy."

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Expense Sheet

Below is a summary of our monthly financials for not only producing this magazine, but running the online writing group throughout the course of the year.

Our expenses include webhosting fees, magazine submissions, local event materials, and general group maintenance.

Annual Donations to Date: **\$150**

Annual Expenses to Date: **\$180**

Total Annual Funds to Date: **-\$30**