



...every afternoon, toward the horizon,
a little more light before the darkness fell.

It is April. Poetry Month. Spring is in the air in most parts of this country, and I think we're all yearning for a little more lightness in our world. While the war in Ukraine continues and the pandemic refuses to wane, it may be challenging to find silver linings, but I urge you to take a minute and reflect on this year so far. There is much to be grateful for.

I am grateful my husband is finally home from the hospital and hopeful that continued home care will lead to whole healing. I am grateful for the book we read in our workshop, a collection of poems describing the outbreak of influenza during WWI. The poem featured on this page is from this collection, and while it may seem somber, it ends in hope. Everywhere I read this month, I found solace, and in the interest of celebrating poetry month, thought it important to share. While we're not all poets, we all share the belief in this program that words strung together, support and enrich our lives, no matter the circumstance.

Poetry International offered several interest-features and forums, posted originally in 2017, three years after Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. In the forum, [Eastern-European Poets on Poetry & War](#) poets from Poland, Ukraine, and other east European countries, address the effects of war on their work and whether poetry can effectively combat propaganda. Also featured is a book review, [Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine](#), including [A Stranger Lives My Life and Wears by Body](#), a poem by [Vasyl Stus](#).

A book of poems that has influenced my writing recently, is Diane Seuss's collection, *Frank-sonnets*, and while I highly recommend reading it, what I wanted to share was her recent commencement address featured on lithub.com: ["I wish you a sexy, dangerous, jazz-shaped immortatliy - Diane Seuss's Advice for Life as a Writer."](#)

Also, visit the [Academy of American Poets](#) website and sign up for their [poem-a-day](#). You'll be sent a new, previously unpublished poem, accompanied by the audio version read by the poet, which provides an entirely different experience of the work. I don't necessarily read each day but I find a few moments here and there to read one or several. Regardless, the poetry usually has something current in our world to relate to, or it aligns or challenges the day's mood. Also, each year during April, the academy presents a live event called *Poetry and the Creative Mind*, where actors, dancers, artists, musicians and public figures share their favorite poems. Last year I attended virtually, and the wonderful readings of familiar and unfamiliar poems were uplifting. I encourage you to attend this free event by registering at [Eventbrite](#). This year's event is hosted by Terrance Hayes and Richard Blanco, with readings from Ishmael Beah, Rosanne Cash, Willem Dafoe, Ann Dowd, Claire Danes, and many more!

Lastly, many literary events, festivals, and gatherings are happening before and after our upcoming residency. Read on for more information and links.

Who said the worst was past, who knew
such a thing? Someone writing history,
someone looking down on us
from the clouds. Down here, snow and wind:
cold blew through the clapboards
our spring was frozen in the frozen ground.
Like the beasts in their holes,
noone stirred - if not sick
exhausted or afraid. In the village,
the doctor's own wife died in the night
of the nineteenth, 1919.
But it was true: at the window
every afternoon, toward the horizon,
a little more light before the darkness fell.

from *Kyrie*, by Ellen Bryant Voigt



Ellen Waterston
and Beth Piatote
are participating
instructors!

Summer Fishtrap Gathering

Mark your calendar for the 35th [Summer Fishtrap](#) Gathering of Writers:
Renewal
— July 11–17, 2022. [Read more.](#)

The whole setting was incredibly supportive, freeing, encouraging, and gorgeous. You've crafted a stunningly open creative space, which brightened my thinking, launched so many ideas, and provided a nudge to keep writing. Thank you!

The Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers is held annually at Wallowa Lake at the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Each year, authors and instructors come to Wallowa County from around the country to provide intensive instruction and inspiration to a small group of writers. The conference features weeklong workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, memoir, essay, and special workshops just for youth. Classes are limited to 13 students, giving each writer the chance to share their work in an intimate and supportive environment.

In addition to morning writing workshops, writers have the opportunity to attend daily craft talks, panel discussions, and read at open mic sessions. Each evening, everyone gathers under the big tent to hear readings from Summer Fishtrap faculty — the best writers in the West.

What makes Summer Fishtrap unique among writing conferences is the emphasis on the creative process. The week is about generating new work, taking risks, and learning from the instructors and writers that surround you. The remote location and stunning scenery of Wallowa County provide inspiration which, for so many, makes Summer Fishtrap a life-changing experience.

EVENTS | LITERARY FESTIVAL



MOUNTAIN WORDS LITERARY FESTIVAL MAY 25-29 | CRESTED BUTTE, CO

We are thrilled to welcome you back to Crested Butte for the 2022 [Mountain Words Literary Festival](#), May 25 - 29 this year! In exciting news:

- [Cheryl Strayed](#), author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *Wild* and the New York Times bestsellers *Tiny Beautiful Things*, will kick off the festival on May 25th!
- Join us for five fabulous days of workshops, panels, readings, live theatre parties, children's theatre + games, film screenings, literary trivia, bookbinding, and scads more.
- Multi-genre workshops + panels including fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, nature writing, playwriting, publishing/editing, journalism/reporting, long-form, et al.
- The lineup includes over 35 authors + presenters, including Pushcart award-winning poet [Kaveh Akbar](#), investigative reporter for the New Yorker, New York Times Magazine Harpers, [Rachel Monroe](#); Yale University professor and author of *Billionaire Wilderness*, [Justin Ferrell](#); and heaps others. Check out the [full lineup](#).
- The MWLF is committed to access for all — [student pricing & full scholarships](#) available.
- All the way from Australia this year, do not miss Literary Death Match with Adrian Todd Zuniga — a competitive, humor-centric reading series featuring a thrilling mix of four famous and emerging authors, three celebrity judges, two finalists, and one champion.
- Check out the festival website for lodging deals + camping options.

Crested Butte Center for the Arts
crestedbuttearts.org | 970 749-6245



LITERARY EVENTS | POETRY IN THE PARKS

Dear Friends,

As we move towards spring and closer to April, National Poetry Month, I'm delighted to share a full schedule of poetry workshops. April also marks the official start of "Poetry in the Parks -" this is brand new program, where I'll be working with several Arizona National Parks and Monuments to offer a variety of free poetry workshops across the state. There are also new workshops in Fort Collins and around Colorado, as well as a number of online offerings. As we transition into spring, perhaps we can turn to poetry to help make some sense of these past two years, and see what new ideas might be waiting to emerge. Take care everyone, and keep writing!

Jodie

Upcoming Workshops

April 30: [Poetry of Place](#), The Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins, Colorado

May 9 - August 1: [Insects and Poetic Inspiration](#), Poetry Masterclass, The Poetry School (Online)

May 21: [Editing and Polishing Poetry Workshop](#), The Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins, Colorado

For more information on these events www.jodiehollander.com

Poetry in the Parks

This April, poet Jodie Hollander will lead a series of free workshops across Arizona's national parks and monuments.



Writing the Saguaro

Saguaro National Park (East entrance)
April 16 // 9.30am – 12.30pm &
April 17 // 9.30am – 12.30pm
Each workshop limited to 10 participants
RSVP: Erich_Koenig@nps.gov



Poetry of Place

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
April 19 // 9.30am – 12.30pm
RSVP: cagr_ranger_activities@nps.gov



The Idea of Home

Montezuma Well National Monument
April 21 // 9.30am – 12.30pm
Limited to 10 participants
RSVP: moca_ranger_activities@nps.gov



Sacred Spaces

Walnut Canyon National Monument
April 23 // 9.30am – 12.30pm
Humans and their Environment
April 24 // 9.30am – 12.30pm
Each workshop limited to 15 participants
RSVP: ryan_p_carpenter@nps.gov

These workshops are all free and are sponsored by the National Parks and The National Monuments in the State of Arizona, but space is limited and spots are given on a first come, first served basis.

Order Jodie Hollander's poetry collection *My Dark Horses* (Pavilion Poetry) from Oxford University Press at global.oup.com/academic.

My
Dark
Horses
JODIE
HOLLANDER



Emerging Writer's Contest BE DISCOVERED!

FICTION JUDGED BY AMELIA GRAY

AMELIA GRAY is the author of five books, most recently *Isadora* (FSG). Her fiction and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Tin House*, and *VICE*. She is a winner of the NYPL Young Lion and of FC2's Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize, and a finalist for a WGA Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. As a screenwriter, she has written for the shows *Maniac* (Netflix), *Mr. Robot* (USA), and *Gaslit* (Starz), as well as the games *Telling Lies* (Annapurna Interactive) and *Immortality* (Half Mermaid). She lives in Los Angeles.

NONFICTION JUDGED BY DANIELLE GELLER

DANIELLE GELLER'S first book, *Dog Flowers*, was published by One World/Random House in 2021. She received her MFA in creative writing for nonfiction at the University of Arizona and a Rona Jaffe Writers' Award in 2016. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The New Yorker*, and *Brevity*. She teaches creative writing at the University of Victoria and is also a faculty mentor for the low-residency MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation: born to the Tsi'naajinii, born for the bilagaana.

POETRY JUDGED BY CHEN CHEN

CHEN CHEN'S second book of poetry, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency*, is forthcoming from BOA Editions in September 2022. His first book, *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), was long-listed for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors. He has received two Pushcart Prizes and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He teaches at Brandeis University and also serves on the poetry faculty for the low-residency MFA programs at New England College and Stonecoast.

We award \$2,000, publication in *Ploughshares*, and a conversation with literary agency Aevitas Creative Management.

Submissions open March 1 - May 22, 2022

PSHARES.ORG/SUBMIT

OPEN CALLS | EMERGING WRITERS...

Miami Book Fair's Emerging Writer Fellowships

(EWF) program offers a life-changing experience to fresh and exciting literary voices. Through the generous sponsorship of the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at the Miami Foundation, we launched a search for the program's next cohort: four writers who will enjoy critical mentorship from a nationally established author in their respective genre – fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and new this round, Spanish-language – as well as a host of other strategic supports.

**WRITE
YOUR BOOK
IN MIAMI!**

MIAMI
BOOK FAIR

Miami Dade College

**FICTION
POETRY
NONFICTION**

**Emerging
Writer
Fellowships**

\$41,000 stipend Nationally recognized mentors
12-month residency in Miami Community engagements

APPLY BY APRIL 30, 2022 / No application fee

Complete information: [MiamiBookFair.com/fellowships](https://www.miamibookfair.com/fellowships)

The Miami Book Fair Emerging Writer Fellowships are supported by
The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation

create  THE JORGE M. PÉREZ
FAMILY FOUNDATION

These fellowships support previously unpublished writers who demonstrate exceptional talent and promise by providing them with time, space, and an intellectually and culturally rich artistic community. The program's goal is to actively support these writers – who are working to complete their first book-length project within a year – and help them launch their literary careers. Emerging Writer Fellows are granted professional experience in arts administration, teaching creative writing, and other opportunities; a \$41,000 stipend; and strong literary community support to allow for 12 glorious months of uninterrupted time to craft their works.

To learn more: <https://www.miamibookfair.com/fellowships/>

To apply: <https://mdc.submittable.com/submit>

Norwegian Wood

By Lars Mytting

Spring time has sprung here in the Willamette Valley have you thought about your wood heating needs for next winter? If you have not read *Norwegian Wood: Chopping, Stacking, and Drying Wood the Scandinavian Way* by Lars Mytting then you would not realize that you are teetering on the edge of not being ready for next winter. This book was first published as *Hel Ved* in 2011 in Norway and making to our shores in 2015. When was the last time you read a book that contained a warning “activities discussed in this book are dangerous”? In classic Norwegian fashion this warning is on the last page in small print. *Norwegian Wood* does not only stack words like cord wood but it has accompanying photographs in support. The first picture is three stacks of wood that are industrial art by a retired postmaster.

Like every great work of creative nonfiction Lars entertains the reader but also informs. I was able to find a direct link to what was said in this book to my family. In the early 1970’s living a mile outside of a two-blink town in eastern Oregon. My family had our own stack of firewood to fight off the dry cold air. Our second-generation American mother prided herself in her Swedish work ethic to stack the firewood in the tightest formation. The following Scandinavian wisdom on the character of a person can be determined by viewing their woodpile.

Tall pile: Big ambitions, but watch out for sagging and collapse

Unusual shape: Freethinking, open spirit, again, the construction may be weak

Flamboyant pile, widely visible: Extroverted, but possibly a bluffer

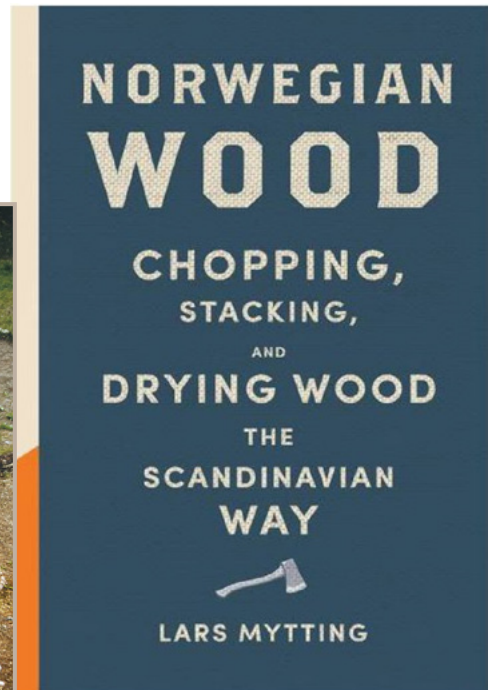
A lot of wood: A man of foresight, loyal

Not much wood: A life lived from hand to mouth

Logs from big trees: Has a big appetite for life, but can be rash and extravagant

Pedantic pile: Perfectionist; may be introverted

Collapsed pile: Weak will, poor judge of priorities



Unfinished pile, some logs lying on the ground: Unstable, lazy, prone to drunkenness

Everything in a pile on the ground:

Ignorance, decadence, laziness, drunkenness, possibly all of these

Old and new wood piled together: Be suspicious: might be stolen wood added to his own

Large and small logs piled together: Frugal. Kindling sneaked in among the logs suggests a considerate man

Rough, gnarled logs, hard to chop: Persistent and strong willed, or else bowed down by his burdens

No woodpile: No husband

Don’t worry mom I do have a small wood pile of rough gnarled logs that are hard to chop but I only use my wood to cook with and relax around the open fire.

Yes, most of us now days just flick the thermostat up or down to heat the house. The warning in the book should not be the activities are dangerous but it should be never to lose the connection to the planet. My warning is do not read this book and be judgmental toward another person’s wood pile unless yours is perfect.

Send me your book review, and I'll include it in the next newsletter. Not only do we appreciate your participation but it looks great on your CV.

Email Imke at: wernicki@oregonstate.edu

FORWARD - OPEN CALLS



[hex](#) publishes flash literary fiction and prose poetry with speculative elements. We welcome the surreal, the weird, and the uncanny. Scare us, surprise us, take us to space. Show us how horror, fantasy, and science fiction can be bent in new ways.

We especially encourage submissions from BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ writers, writers with disabilities, and early-career writers.

We consider stories and prose poems of 1000 words or fewer. Submitters may send up to two stories or two prose poems if the total wordcount does not exceed 1000. Simultaneous submissions are encouraged, but please withdraw work through Submittable promptly if it's accepted elsewhere.

We are not able to pay contributors at this time.

We do not accept previously published submissions in English, although we welcome English translations of stories or poems published in languages other than English, provided you have the rights for republication. [hex](#) publishes very short speculative texts on a weekly-ish basis. **We like it weird.** [Submit here.](#)

SO TO SPEAK
language + intersectionality + art

Submissions Open

NO FEE

So to Speak's summer online issue!

[So to Speak Journal](#) seeks work by writers, poets, and artists who want to challenge and change the identity of the “canonical” writer. Our mission at So to Speak is to provide a digital and print platform to amplify the voices of BIPOC, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, nonbinary people, women, neurodivergent people, people of all different religions or none, migrants, refugees & immigrants (regardless of citizenship), and incarcerated writers.

So to Speak considers unsolicited submissions of previously unpublished poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and visual art for every issue, as well as submissions to our blog. Simultaneous submissions are fine and even encouraged!

For all the info click [here!](#)

COMMUNITY - MIND THE GAP

Mind the gap? Yes, I do!

While I am aware we are enrolled in a Low Residency online writing program, it doesn't mean that as a collective we have to remain isolated and separate. I'm grateful for the weekly writer's group that I am a part of and I'd like to encourage all students, past and present, to reach out to each other and perhaps consider forming a small group of your own to meet virtually. In the interest of this program, and building community, I am proposing that we have an online monthly get together. It will be an hour of listening, speaking and possible feedback.

Logistically it will look like this: The last Thursday of every month, we will have three students, one from each genre, read original work (unfinished, revised, or not) and then allow for 10 minutes of feedback if desired. The purpose of this is that hopefully it will bring us all a little closer together. It will encourage students to share their work before they may feel ready and thus provide a space for practice. It will encourage listeners to learn more about giving constructive feedback, as there may be occasional guest speakers on the methods of workshop, feedback, and constructive critical listening.

It is my hope that it will offer us a chance to hear what others are writing and to support our fellow writers by giving feedback and support while practicing our listening skills. Check your email soon for upcoming dates and consider participating, whether as a reader/writer or listener. Looking forward to closing the virtual gap!

Oh, one last thing... I think we should call it "The Green Hour." What do you think? Let me know. I'm only an email away: wernicki@oregonstate.edu

WAVE IN

MAY 5-7, 2022 | LAS VEGAS, NV

Black Mountain Institute's three-day arts and culture festival is fast approaching! Join us **May 5-7** to celebrate and explore the ripple effects of human connection, action, and consequence. We'll hear from award-winning writers and artists, like **Maggie Nelson, Kaveh Akbar, Roxane Gay, and Eve L. Ewing** at some of our favorite locations throughout the Las Vegas Valley, including the Writer's Block, Springs Preserve, and Fergusons Downtown. In addition to ticketed evening programs, you can enjoy **FREE** readings, conversations, and family-friendly activities during this year's festival. [Full schedule details.](#)

If you're in Las Vegas that weekend,

[GET YOUR TICKETS](#)

calling all writers

This newsletter is for you, the grad student, alumni, and faculty of the writing program. We're changing things up! No more themes, just open call! Please send something to be published in the newsletter. You'll be glad you did.

GUIDELINES: Student, faculty, and alumni original works are welcome.

Please share your thoughts, work, unfinished or not.

Prose: 500 words max (excerpts from larger works welcome)

Poetry: No more than two poems.

PLEASE Share your offering by **May 5, 2022**, by emailing it to: wernicki@oregonstate.edu

