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*Friends and Writing Sisters,  
Don't let April showers dampen your writing/reading spirit. Consider honing your creative skills through one or more of our classes, webinars, writing circles, and so much more. Story Circle Network continues to provide encouragement, support, and ever-growing opportunities for women writers and artists. Learn the latest techniques for success in all your writing endeavors. And don't forget the opportunity to promote your work by entering one or more of the writing competitions in the works for 2024 (see "Share Your Writing" below).*

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\*\*\*\*\***SNEAK PREVIEW**\*\*\*\*\*

**No April Fools Joke** . . . Just an important reminder that Story Circle Network is offering a unique opportunity for non-members to enjoy the following **two March Journal feature articles free of charge!**

[Celebrate Women's History Month](#) via a discussion of SCN founder Susan Wittig Albert's newest addition to her renowned *Hidden Women Series*—a collection of biographical novels dedicated to preserving the histories of generally un-lauded women who supported and influenced famous/infamous people over the years and made a difference. **Someone Always Nearby** covers the unique, often tumultuous relationship between acclaimed artist Georgia O'Keeffe and the relatively unknown but ambitious writer, Maria Chabot.

Relax and relish the wit and wisdom shared by past SCN president and gifted author Jeanne Baker Guy in her regular *Journal* column, "[Unvarnished: Questionable Notes on the Writing Life](#)." Her delightfully humorous style of revealing the naked truths behind the ups and downs of life as a writer amuses, inspires, and informs. Spoiler Alert: Once you've sampled her column, you'll be hooked!

Unlock the entire journal, along with additional perks (e.g., publishing opportunities, members-only contests, reduced-rate classes, peer interaction), by joining our community of women writers [here](#). Members may access the complete March 2024 *Journal* [here](#) exclusively.

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## WRITE & LEARN WITH OTHER SCN WRITERS

Watch for upcoming webinar information and registration links at [Programs & Events](#). If you missed one of our many fantastic webinars in the past, you may purchase (\$10) a link to a replay [here](#).

## A WEBINAR PRESENTED BY STORY CIRCLE NETWORK

### Open My Heart: Poetry as a Way to Heal Your Heart and Help Your Loved Ones and the World

*Yes, poetry can do ALL that. Join Bird Mejia for a restful, empowering workshop that will leave you feeling good. You will leave with powerful writing prompts to start or continue to heal your heart and help those around you.*

Wednesday, April 24, 2024  
6pm CT / 4pm PT  
Cost: \$25



WITH BIRD MEJIA

HEART SHAMAN, YOGI, POET, AND TEACHER. BIRD HAS EARNED TWO MASTER'S DEGREES, INCLUDING AN MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF *WILD WOMAN AT MY DOOR*.



Where women become the authors of their lives.  
*Women's life stories matter. We're committed to helping you tell yours.*

## A WEBINAR PRESENTED BY STORY CIRCLE NETWORK

### From Prompt to Print: How Our Group Writings Led to Publication

*After taking an online Story Circle Network course, "Writing about Your Mom without Guilt" in Fall 2020, we nine women continued to meet and extended our writings to other provocative topics. This eventually led to the creation of our anthology, *Here's the Story ... Nine Women Write Their Lives*, published by Bedazzled Ink in March 2024.*

*This webinar will take you through some of our most inspirational prompts. Learn how we organized our subjects into accessible categories and how we managed the various stages of editing and publishing, so that you will have the necessary tools to take your group's writing to another level.*

Wednesday, May 8, 2024  
6pm CT / 4pm PT  
Cost: FREE!



WITH AMY BARUCH, STEPHANIE COWELL, LINDA ARONOVSKY COX, KAREN FINCH, JANE MYLUM GARDNER, RHONDA HUNT-DEL BENE, KATHERINE KIRKPATRICK, KATHLEEN M. RODGERS, AND ANDREA SIMON

AUTHORS OF: *HERE'S THE STORY ... NINE WOMEN WRITE THEIR LIVES*



Where women become the authors of their lives.  
*Women's life stories matter. We're committed to helping you tell yours.*

Want to explore the stories of your life that center on springtime? You'll have that opportunity if you sign up for Christie O'Callaghan's four-week course, [Seasonal Stories](#), which runs from April 4-25. Come for exploration, writing, and camaraderie. Or would you prefer to work one-on-one with a writing instructor on a specific project? Join B. Lynn Goodwin for her [Independent Study class](#) that runs from April 8 - May 6.



It's not too late! Sign up today for SCN's October 2024 **Writing Workshop and Sightseeing Tour to Sicily**, hosted by SCN President Len Leatherwood. Not only can you bring your partner or a friend, but you can also invite your kids 16-years and older. We will explore Sicily's Mount Etna, pristine beaches, historically rich archeological sites, and quaint towns both on the coasts and in the interior. You also will have the chance to gather daily with fellow women writers to write and read short pieces inspired by your discoveries. Come for fun, camaraderie, and delicious food. [Click here for more information](#) on our exciting itinerary. **JUST IN ...** We're adding a **4-Day Post-Trip to Rome!** Explore ancient and baroque Rome, take a tour of the Vatican, and enjoy some free time to sit in a cafe or take off on your own. We're staying in a modern hotel with plenty of amenities. You can add this trip to the main trip for a reasonable cost or come only for these four days in Rome before you embark on the rest of your European adventure. For more information on this, email host Len Leatherwood at [lenleatherwood@gmail.com](mailto:lenleatherwood@gmail.com).

**E-Circle Writing Extravaganza:** An inspiring Zoom meeting held 6:00-7:30 Central on the second Thursday each month. All SCN members, join us! For more information, see

graphic toward the end of this page.

Join a Roundtable. Our **Writers' Roundtables** (online writing support groups) help to keep us focused on our writing, share writing plans, learn from others' experiences, and stay in touch with our writing intentions. [Learn more.](#)

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## SHARE YOUR WRITING

### 2024 Sarton & Gilda Book Awards Program opening April 17!

As we eagerly await the announcement of the 2023 winners, the next chapter of the Sarton/Gilda Awards program will soon begin, inviting new stories, fresh perspectives, and the continued celebration of women in literature. This program celebrates women writers across seven categories: Memoir, Historical Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Young Adult Fiction, and Nonfiction. The Gilda Prize is for comedic memoir/fiction. Entries, as always, are welcome in either print or eBook formats.

Coinciding with National Poetry Month, our **Third Annual Poetry Competition** will be open for submissions April 14-June 8 with the topic of *Silence*. Our judges look forward to reading your work again this year; so don your poetry caps and start writing! Prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 will be awarded to the top three entries. The first-place poem will be published in the *Story Circle Network Journal*, and all winning poems will be featured on SCN's website. Full contest details [here](https://www.storycircle.org/contest/the-story-circle-poetry-competition/) (<https://www.storycircle.org/contest/the-story-circle-poetry-competition/>)

*Coming soon . . .* **2024 RWW Anthology: The Power of Friendship!** If interested in submitting, we ask you to contemplate how friends have affected your life. A lifelong connection with a BFF? Lessons learned from dealing with toxic friends, the betrayal of friendships gone bad, an appreciation of how old and new friends have shaped you, or something entirely different? Reflections on friendship provide a powerful emotional lens through which to capture your insights and memories. This is a meaningful topic and a great publication opportunity. **Submissions will be open May 1–July 1.** Check the [SCN website](#) for updates. Shelley Johnson Carey, the editor of the Real Women Write anthologies, looks forward to seeing your work.

We shine brighter together! Every member's accomplishment is a source of inspiration for us all. Published your first piece? Landed an agent? Let us share in your joy! **Members In the News** is **free** and a wonderful way to connect with our supportive community. Submit your news [here](#).

[Here](#) is a treasure trove waiting to be explored. Showcase your published work alongside other gems by talented women writers. Let readers discover your book in our **Virtual Library** and unlock its potential! \$45/year, SCN members only. [Join here](#).

Submit your **"True Words"** story to the *Journal*. The suggested topic for June 2024 is *Sharing Stories*, with a deadline of April 15. Of course, we welcome all entries should a different topic strike your fancy. Member submissions happen [here](#). (There's also a link on your membership page.)

Members are invited to **blog with us** at [One Woman's Day](#) by writing about a day in your life. [Telling HerStories](#), a blog created by women writers and teachers, seeks posts about writing strategies. Reprinted posts from your own blogs are accepted by both venues. Submit or subscribe [here](#).

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## GREAT READS—BY, FOR, AND ABOUT WOMEN

**Published and Ready for You!** SCN currently has eleven books available on Amazon, and we encourage you to support the organization and the work of your sister writers by requesting them from your library or buying a copy online. We'll be describing them individually in the *Journal* each quarter in a new feature called "Ready to Read." Or you can go [here](#) to find them all.



April is poetry month. Love to read and write with glee? [Become a reviewer](#) (or enjoy others' reviews); it's meant to be. Free books, women's stories to praise; join the team, spread their voices in a blaze!

Join us on our social media pages for weekly updates, literary news, and creative inspiration. You can find us on **Instagram**: [@StoryCircleNetwork](#); **Facebook**: [SCN on Facebook](#); **Twitter**: [SCN on Twitter](#); **LinkedIn**: [SCN on LinkedIn](#); with the Sarton/Gilda Awards on [Twitter](#). Go to our [YouTube channel](#) to enjoy videos about the business and craft of writing.

Our quarterly ***Story Circle Journal*** is packed with interviews with writers like you, stories by SCN writers, program details, and the information our members need to make the most of their memberships. Members are invited to log in to read past or present issues. Not yet a member or need to renew? [Easy registration here](#).

Story Circle's book list keeps growing. **Our 2023 anthology, *Mothers and Mentors: The Art of Nurturing*** is now available [here](#). This year's collection is filled with eighty-five powerful stories and poems about this most basic human need and activity by sixty-eight of our talented member-authors. A great gift, as well as a moving read for all.

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## SHARE YOUR SKILLS

**Jurors and judges** are critical to the success of our **Sarton & Gilda Book Awards** Program. The competition unfolds in two rounds, with SCN member volunteers serving as jurors in Round One and librarians (unaffiliated with SCN) acting as judges in Round Two. The jurors dedicate six weeks (usually from August to November) to reading and evaluating three assigned books, scoring them through online rubrics available on our website. If you are an SCN member with a passion for books by women and a willingness to devote some of your reading time to this cause, we invite you to join us as a juror. Reach out to Liz Beaty at [elizabethbeaty@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbeaty@gmail.com) to express your interest.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Oversight Chair Sought.** Are you interested in reporting on progress taking place within our organization? Are you able to compare data from one quarter to another based upon work group progress reports from the board? If so, please consider seeking a spot as the DEI Oversight Chair on the SCN Board. At a time when many DEI initiatives are being dismantled left and right, Story Circle's enthusiasm and commitment remains. The new chairperson's strategy for overseeing our progress can be their own, but we mustn't waver in our expression of support for such important undertakings. Contact retiring director Shawn La Torre at [shawn.latorre@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.latorre@gmail.com) for more details if you are interested!



## College Match Mentor Opportunity!

**College Match Mentoring Opportunities** are now open. Lend your skills and support to this exciting partnership between SCN and College Match. Now in its fourth season, this effort pairs SCN volunteers with high-performing, high-poverty students to prepare their college essays. Training and support is provided. This is an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the life of a young person. To find out more and to submit an inquiry form please go to: [https://bit.ly/SCN\\_CollegeMatchMentor](https://bit.ly/SCN_CollegeMatchMentor)

As a nonprofit organization, **SCN depends on volunteers** to help make our programs happen. There has never been a better time to show your support. [Find out more here](#).

Or, send an email indicating the area of your interest to [storycircle@storycircle.org](mailto:storycircle@storycircle.org). You can also help by selecting Story Circle Network as your charity of choice at many businesses.

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Story Circle Network supports women around the world who want to tell their important stories. We value connections and love to hear from friends and members; see contact information below. Stay safe and well, and continue to help us build the network.—*SCN Board of Directors*

You can read prior *Flash* issues online [here](#).

Contact us via email: [storycircle@storycircle.org](mailto:storycircle@storycircle.org)

or

write to: **Story Circle Network, 723 W University Ave #300-234, Georgetown TX 78626**

Lost your username/password? Email us! [storycircle@storycircle.org](mailto:storycircle@storycircle.org)  
(please put "SCN lost password" in the subject line)

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## NEW MONTHLY ZOOM E-CIRCLE WRITING EXTRAVAGANZA

COME POETS, MEMOIRISTS & STORYTELLERS  
ALL E-CIRCLE MEMBERS WELCOME

JOIN US FOR WRITING IN COMMUNITY  
FACILITATED BY B LYNN GOODWIN

2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
4 - 5:30 PM PACIFIC TIME

QUESTIONS?  
Contact Carol Ziel at [ziel.carol@gmail.com](mailto:ziel.carol@gmail.com)



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***Simply Click on the Cover of the Book You Would Like to Purchase***

Volume 22 / 2023

# REAL WOMEN WRITE

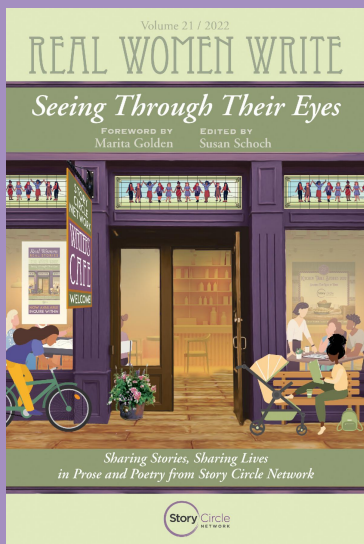
## *Mothers and Mentors* THE ART OF NURTURING

FOREWORD BY  
Jennifer Smith Turner

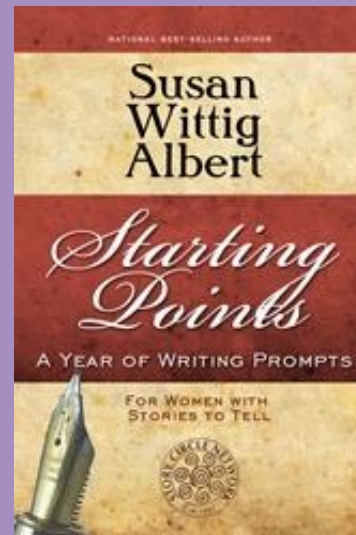
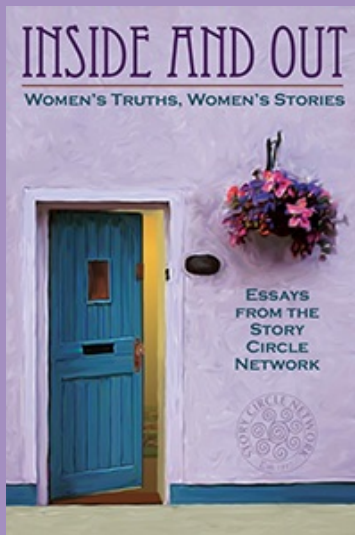
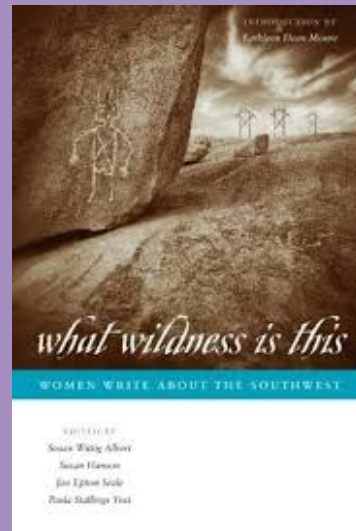
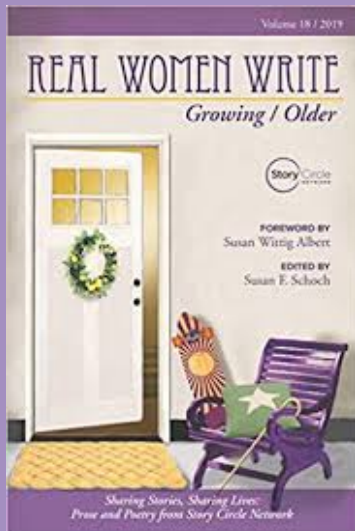
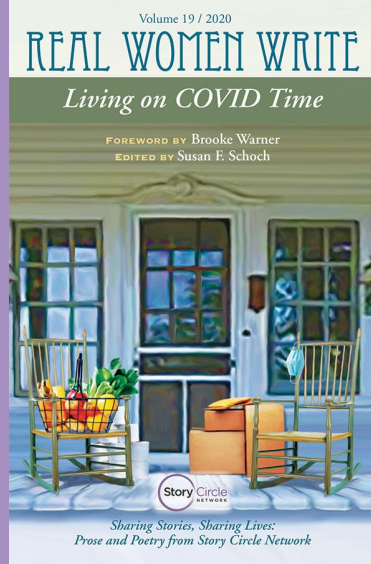
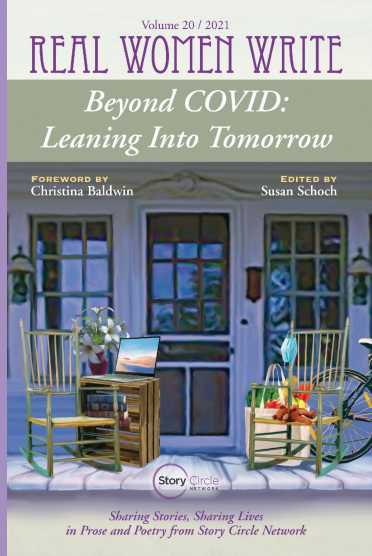
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Susan Schoch



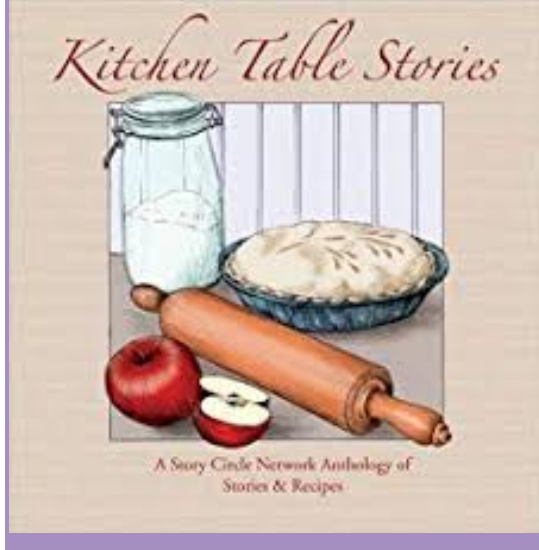
*Sharing Stories, Sharing Lives*  
in Prose and Poetry from Story Circle Network











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