



wisconsin
writers
association

Creative Wisconsin

Develop your craft. Discover resources.
Expand your network. Build your audience.

Fall-Winter 2024

WWA Calendar

See inside for more details

Ongoing
Critique Groups

November 12
Creative Writing
Workshop with
Tim Storm

Book-to-Film Zoom
November 18

Open Mic
December 12

New Critique Groups
In January
Watch for Registration
in November

Visit
www.wiwrite.org
for Specific Information
and Registration Details



In this edition:

It's Jade Ring contest announcement time!

Enjoy contest winners and placers in Fiction, Nonfiction,
Poetry, and What Wisconsin Means to Me

Founded in 1948, the Wisconsin Writers Association is a creative community dedicated to the support of writers and authors.

WWA sponsors and hosts year-round workshops and events throughout Wisconsin, offering discounts and exclusive resources.

We aim to share experiences and knowledge while encouraging our members in their pursuit of this most noble art.

Images in this edition are courtesy of Pixabay.com, and the authors. Thank you.

Meet Lora Hyler

Award-winning author

Interview with Maryssa Paulsen, CW staff writer



Lora Hyler

Lora, how long have you been a member of WWA?

I've won two Jade Ring Awards. WWA published my works in the 2021 Creative Wisconsin Anthology, and the 2017 Creative Wisconsin Literary Journal. So, I'd say my membership dates back to at least a few years.

What do you most appreciate about Wisconsin Writers Association?

Wisconsin Writers Association has provided support throughout my creative writing career. I've always embraced the idea of learning from and sharing my own works with fellow writers. Whether it's a formal setting such as a class, an artist residency, or informal conversation over coffee, it's great to chat with fellow creatives. WWA members have provided support in each of these areas.

I appreciate the long history of the organization and its role in nurturing writers throughout Wisconsin and beyond.

What do you write?

My writing ranges from 200-page middle grade books, to a book for younger readers designed to help them deal with the pandemic, to adult essays, and screenplays. I've also served as lead author of a book published by SHARP Literacy featuring personal family migration stories. This book has been shared with 9,000 Wisconsin schoolchildren.

My first middle grade book, *The Stupendous Adventures of Mighty Marty Hayes*, features multicultural superheroes, working on CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology in their advanced 7th grade classroom, who share a love of spy gadgets. I'm working on the next book in the series, as well as a script to pursue stage and screen adaptations.

In 2024, I've had the honor of:

Being named a Poet & Author Fellow with the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing!

Selected along with 21 writers and illustrators for children from around the world to attend The Rock Retreat, a weeklong seminar in Gibraltar. The retreat was co-founded by Sarah Odedina, editor of JK Rowling's Harry Potter books. She's currently with Pushkin Press of London.

Awarded a mentor through Women of Color Unite's Start with 8 Program designed to further their mission of "fair access, fair treatment and fair pay for women of color in all aspects of the entertainment and media industries." I'm very excited to have a mentor employed as a producer with a major Hollywood studio.

Appearances at 50+ schools, book festivals, bookstores and educator conferences. I've loved meeting enthusiastic readers of my work and inspiring others to pursue their passions.

Creative Wisconsin



Share a little about your writing process. How have you benefitted from WWA?

My writing involves research, and minimal outlining before the writing begins. I've tackled *The Great Migration*, as well as CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology, so research and collaboration is a must.

I enjoy studying the craft of writing on my own, as well as through seminars for authors, playwrights, and screenwriters. WWA has been instrumental in providing useful contests, in-person and virtual classes, and conferences.

What would you like to see WWA do more or less of going forward?

I'd love to see greater encouragement of youth writers. I love member Kim Suhr's Red Oak Writing organization. Her youth programs for ages 6-12 are fueling future authors. Members could consider contributions or donating services.

What advice do you have for aspiring and seasoned writers?

I believe creatives come into being at a very young age. Growing up in a capitalist society, we get cues very early that we may want to consider a 'more sensible career.' That's my story. When I announced to my Sunday school teacher my desire to become an artist, I was promptly sent to my mom to come back with another answer!

I wish Ms. Wiggins could see me now. I'm sure I'm living her wildest dreams! She would be amazed that my life as an artist has taken me on national and international journeys.

Fortunately, my chosen paths of journalist, corporate communications manager, and public relations firm owner, with creative writing in my spare time, were all great training. I love writing full-time for children and adults.

My advice to anyone who wants to write is go for it! You don't need permission. Put in the time to learn the craft of writing, develop your own voice, and you will find your audience.

Any final words of wisdom?

It seems a lot of people are working their 9 to 5s with one eye on the passage of time, anticipating retirement!

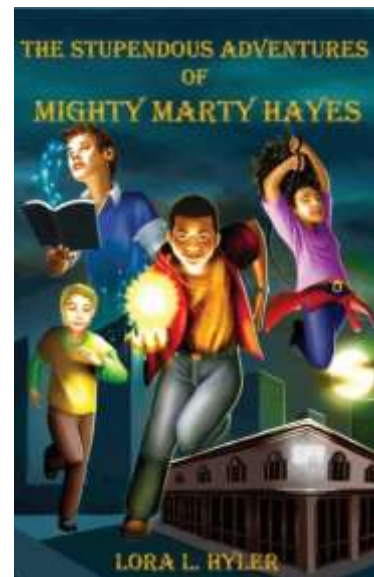
I'm fortunate to live in the creative world I've crafted. I'm able to research and write what I enjoy, and to combine this with my love of travel. So far, I've enjoyed numerous artist residencies, and met and supported fellow creatives from around the world. My artist travels have included France, Gibraltar, California, Martha's Vineyard, Door County, and Mineral Point, WI, to name a few. My residencies fuel me.

There's some magic to leaving home for a week or a month, letting new environments soak into your bones, meeting fellow creatives from around the world, and emerging with fresh ideas and greater empathy toward your fellow humans.

Next up: successfully adapting my work for stage or screen!

I've learned the power of speaking your dreams into reality!

Thank you, Lora.



Finalist in American Book Fest's 2019 Best Book Awards in Children's Fiction category
2019 Eric Hoffer Book Award Winner, middle reader category
2019 Eric Hoffer Book Award Finalist, da Vinci Eye, for book design (designer Ian Wade)