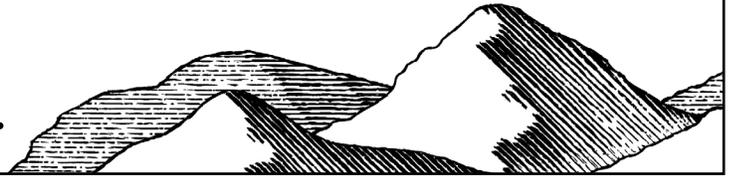


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THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE WRITING CENTER
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THE WRITER'S HAVEN: A WORD GUIDE

VICTORIA LARKIN

Guild: OED online: **1.** A confraternity, brotherhood [sic], or association formed for the mutual aid and protection of its members, or for the prosecution of some common purpose...a company or fellowship of any kind. The word 'guild' derives from Old English/Norse, *geld*, meaning: payment, compensation, money, tribute, offering, also **Gold:** that which is put into common funds for future use.

Writer: You.

Alone, with pen (or keyboard) and paper, perhaps you create a world to inhabit, but you create this world in solitude. While seclusion is the nature of the art of writing, and writers can tend to be introverted types, one can get lost so on one's own, blindly navigating through unknown waters on a flimsy raft. Ultimately, one hopes to build one's own boat and sail the seven seas. But for that, perhaps what is needed is a bit of dialogue as to which way to weft the wood so that one can save not only the vessel but, by inference, a life. What better than to share one's work with fellow craftspeople? The writing programs at Evergreen can overflow quickly, leaving writers without a forum in which to practice, struggle and refine; they remain isolated, fumbling in the dark. The mission of the Writer's Guild is to be an enclave for those in and not in writing programs here at Evergreen.

Since its creation four years ago, the Writer's Guild has hosted weekly meetings at which much inspired writing occurs. Writers bring their own work for other writers to critique; we usually write from some agreed upon prompt and then share our varied weavings. The Guild also works to promote our craft in the wider community by sponsoring readings by published poets, as well as open mics to go along with festivities such as Arts Walk and Hallowe'en. A few times a year we put out zines, and yearly we publish *On Uneven Ground*, our hand-bound collection of poetry and prose. In the spring of 2006, we initiated the first annual Spring Writes conference, a day-long event open to the community. Published authors and Evergreen faculty deposited gems of wisdom formed through years of experience into the tool boxes of all attending.

A WRITER'S HAVEN

The Writer's Guild is the mast under which writers gather to perfect themselves in the mystery of their craft, spinning gold with words, filling their coffers for rainy and all other days. The Writer's Guild holds space for confraternity, consoroity, experiment, and essay. Each configuration of Guild creates its own atmosphere and generates its own form. We foster the craft of writing through exercise, critique, encouragement, and involvement.

Come and be the Writer's Guild. We encourage writers of all genres to get involved. We are our Writers. Together we generate and together we seek to infiltrate. Remember, the pen is a mighty sword to wield. Spread the Word.

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