

Introductory Commentary

Latitudes: Hawaii Writers Guild Online Literary Review

Third Issue Publication Target Date: *Winter 2022*

Aloha All Members in Good Standing:

We are pleased to announce we are accepting submissions for the Winter 2022 issue of *Latitudes: Hawaii Writers Guild Online Literary Review*.

Submissions for our *Review* are open to Guild members only.

Submission Window: *September 15- November 15, 2021*.

Target Publication Date: February 2022.

General Guidelines:

We seek your best work for publication in *Latitudes: the Hawaii Writers Guild Online Literary Review*.

Whether fiction, non-fiction (memoir or essay), poetry, or drama (dramatic monologue or ten-minute play), we wish to showcase writing that is compelling, written with distinction, engages the reader from start to finish, and evokes a response.

Writers have individual styles. What is considered interesting, intriguing, and riveting for some may be too edgy and peculiar for others. The Review's editors will wrestle with this conundrum

and select submissions that are good and solid examples of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.

All submissions that are accepted for publication will share common elements of good writing in *grammar, punctuation, style, syntax, and story / narrative flow.*

- **Hawaii Writers Guild will not accept submissions that include religious or political proselytizing, libelous material, material that infringes on another's copyright, gratuitous vulgarity, or anything remotely misogynistic, racist, or bigoted. Cursing, within the context of the story line, and within the bounds of the characters and the plot, is acceptable.**
- Works-in-Progress must be self-contained chapters or sections from the larger work.
- We are theme and genre neutral. Show us your best work regardless of genre or theme.
- Lighter themes and humor welcome.
- Critiques will not be given.

Key elements we will look for, by genre:

Fiction:

- A compelling story that stirs an emotional response, utilizes imaginative premises, unusual/marginalized characters, and creates high stakes.
- Well-delineated characters and setting.
- Dialogue that sounds real. (Grammar rules may take a holiday.)
- Tight writing (the most arbitrary element!) should include action verbs and vivid nouns, judicious use of adverbs and adjectives—and a writing style that ***shows*** the reader, does not ***tell*** her.
- Appropriate handling of point-of-view.
- Good story / narrative flow and smooth transition between scenes.
- Good grammar required (except in dialogue).
- Avoid clichés or trite descriptions.

Non-Fiction (Memoir):

- A compelling event with a beginning, middle, and end that the reader relates to and that emotionally impacts the reader.
- Well delineated settings and/or characters driven by life experiences and complex motives.
- Dialogue that sounds real. (Grammar rules may take a holiday.)

- Tight writing (the most arbitrary element!) should include action verbs, vivid nouns, limited adverbs and adjectives—with the purpose of *showing* the reader, not *telling* her.
- Good story / narrative flow and smooth transition between scenes / years.
- Good grammar required (except in dialogue).
- Avoid clichés and trite descriptions.

Non-Fiction (Essay):

- Clear statement of topic or intent with clear, explicit main ideas or thesis.
- ***Bravery*** not required but appreciated—show us the stuff you never thought would be published elsewhere—i.e., ***be different***.
- Information or personal experience / ideas / philosophy that supports the topic logically.
- Tight writing (the most arbitrary element!) should include action verbs, vivid nouns, judicious use of adverbs and adjectives—that ***shows*** the reader, does not ***tell*** her.
- A conclusion or presentation that follows from the material presented.

Drama (Dramatic Monologues, Soliloquies, Ten-Minute Plays):

Dramatic Monologues and Soliloquies:

- Dramatic monologues are a way of expressing the views of one character and offering the audience greater insight into that character's feelings.

- A dramatic monologue usually takes place when a character is facing an extreme crisis, or a dramatic moment in the plot. A dramatic monologue should add tension, conflict, or emotion to the rest of the play and give the audience new insight into an existing issue or problem.
- A dramatic monologue or soliloquy should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

--A soliloquy is a long speech spoken aloud by a character to him- or herself.

(Example: Shakespeare's "To Be or Not to Be" speech in Hamlet).

--A monologue is a long speech spoken aloud by a character to another person or persons. (Example: Shakespeare's "Friends, Romans, Countrymen" speech in Julius Caesar).

Ten-Minute Plays:

- **As the name indicates, a ten-minute play lasts no more than ten minutes!** Use the word count as a guide but read it out loud to double-check.
- **Write a story with an arc, not just a sketch with a punchline.** Technically, a play is described as having a beginning, rising action, a climax, falling action and an ending. A key difference between a play and a sketch is that a play will include character development. Although plays should have multiple characters, you should develop at least one complex character to create meaningful connection with the audience.
- The thesis of your play should be a question that gets answered by the end of the play. It can be a simple one, such as "What would happen if someone found their true love two months before their death?" to something more ambiguous like "Is loyalty good?"

- The key component in drama is *conflict*. Introduce it early, ideally within the first page or two. Skip exposition and extraneous details.
- Since these plays are normally read to an audience, there should be a part for a narrator who will describe the setting, characters, and action vividly but briefly. In this format, the narrator replaces stage directions.
- Apart from the addition of a speaking narrator, the only difference from a standard play format is that characters' names should be in all caps at the beginning of a line followed by the dialogue. For example:

JOHN: I'm thinking of writing a ten-minute play this year.

ELLEN: Save a part for me.

JOHN: For sure, honey. You're the real talent in this marriage.

NARRATOR: They kiss.

Poetry:

- Clear speaker's voice and point of view.
- Language compression skills.
- An array of similes, metaphors, images.
- Rhythm and *sound* employed.
- Explosive word choices that express passion, emotion, and poetic image.
- Form or structure that fits the poem's meaning.
- Skillful grammar and word order techniques.

- Compelling ending—*leave an impression*.

Maximum Length Guidelines for submissions, by genre:

- Fiction and Non-Fiction word count: 2,000 – 4,000 words.
- Flash Fiction: up to 1,000 words.
- Dramatic monologue: 500 words
- Ten-minute play: 2,000 words.
- Poetry—NOT limited by number of poems, but submissions are limited to no more than 4 pages per submission.