

## What is the Geneva Writers' Group?

Founded in 1993, the Geneva Writers' Group brings together over 150 English-language writers from 25 countries. Its objective is to encourage all forms of creative writing in English.

The GWG is a non-profit group with links to International PEN, the International Writers' Residence at the Château de Lavigny, the Paris Writers' Workshop, and the International Women's Writing Guild.

Membership is open to all who wish to develop their creative writing skills. Support and encouragement are given to both beginning and published writers.

Meetings are held monthly, from September to June, at the Geneva Press Club, with a program of writing workshops, critiquing sessions and master classes.

Since 1998 the group has organized the biennial Geneva Writers' Conference, held at Webster University in Bellevue, Geneva. This conference welcomes 200 writers from around the world, with a teaching staff, editors and agents. In alternating years, the group offers "Meet the Agents", a weekend of presentations, readings and consultations.

The GWG publishes *Offshoots: Writing from Geneva*, a biennial collection of prose and poetry. Volume 11 was published in September 2011.

Other activities include a mentoring service for GWG members with instructors in Europe and the USA, a network of small writing groups, public readings and literary salons.

For more information about the Geneva Writers' Group, please visit [www.genevawritersgroup.org](http://www.genevawritersgroup.org)

geneva writers conference

## Swiss Cachet

The shores of Switzerland's famous Lake Geneva and the snow-capped Alps beyond, provide the backdrop for a unique gathering of writers: the Geneva Writers' Conference, held biennially in early February.

Judged by scenery alone, this conference wins the gold medal every time, but its literary merits far outweigh the venue's natural beauty. The Geneva Conference is one of the very few professionally oriented writing workshops operating in Europe.

A forum for published writers and beginners, participants and instructors from across Europe, and from as far away as North America, New Zealand, Egypt, Vietnam and Israel. Many of the participants are active translators; many also write in more than one language.

This cosmopolitan milieu is only enhanced by the spirit of Geneva itself, with its history as a center of international dialogue. For the more than 175 writers and faculty who assemble for the Geneva Conference every two years, the accent is on the sharing of ideas and resources . . .

LINDA LAPPIN, ROME  
Excerpted from *Poets & Writers*,  
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## Monthly Workshops 2011–12

- September 17 From Personal Essays to  
Opinion and Travel Essays  
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
- October 15 Short Shorts and Flash Fiction
- November 19 Poetry Workshop: Mine, Yours, Ours  
(Morning and Afternoon)  
Guest Instructor: Michael Hulse
- November 20 Poetry Master Class  
Guest Instructor: Michael Hulse
- December 10 Writing from Darkness (all genres)
- January 14 Super Story Telling  
Guest Instructor, Simon Hall
- February 3–5 Geneva Writers' Conference  
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
- March 17 Metaphor in Writing
- April 14 Fiction Workshop  
(Morning and Afternoon)  
Guest Instructor: To be announced
- April 15 Fiction Master Class  
Instructor: To be announced
- May 12 Writing Short and Long Memoirs  
Annual General Assembly
- June 9 Dialogue (all genres)
- June 9 Annual Evening of Readings

## Workshop Program

- 10:00 – 12:30 Morning Workshop  
12:30 – 14:00 Lunch  
14:00 – 16:30 Afternoon Workshop

Morning workshops include instruction, guided writing exercises, hand-outs and marketing.

Afternoon workshops include critiquing manuscripts (1,400 words maximum or 3 poems), and are limited to 8 readers who sign up in advance and bring 20 copies of their work. Other participants are welcome.

- Workshop Fees (CHF 10 reduction for students and AVS)
- Morning session CHF 30  
Afternoon session CHF 20 (10 if not reading)  
Both sessions CHF 40 (35 if not reading)  
Guest instructors CHF 50 Saturday  
CHF 50 Sunday

Susan Tiberghien—writer, teacher, editor—leads the workshops. Her books include *Looking for Gold*, *Circling to the Center*, *Footsteps: A European Album* and *One Year to a Writing Life*. Guest instructors give Master Classes.

Unless otherwise noted, workshops are held at the Geneva Press Club, 106 Route de Ferney, Geneva. The Press Club can be reached by taking bus #5 to the Hotel Intercontinental stop.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.genevawritersgroup.org](http://www.genevawritersgroup.org)

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## About the Saturday Workshops

I felt very isolated as a writer until I found the GWG. I now have many wonderful and supportive friends around the world who also write. I owe much of this to the confidence I gained from the warm welcome of the GWG. PETINA GAPPAH, ZIMBABWE

After joining the GWG, I moved from being a writer to a published writer (*Slovenia 1945*)—a result of the inspired teaching and the creative energies generated by the group. The mixture of examples from great writers and bursts of our own writing works well to broaden the scope. MARCUS FERRAR, UK

The GWG workshops helped me to get past my journalistic way of writing and weave more poetry and imagery into my work. Kudos for the terrific organization, including the master classes.

PAMELA TAYLOR, USA

## About *Offshoots*: *Writing from Geneva*

*Offshoots*—a splendid showcase for writing from the international community in Geneva—is a worthy inheritor of the tradition of expatriate writing, proving it's as vibrant and vital as ever.

PETER HO DAVIES | *THE UGLIEST HOUSE IN THE WORLD*,  
*EQUAL LOVE*

Members of the Geneva Writers' Group gather rather like Chaucer's pilgrims . . . They bring their threads of the world together and weave them into rich tapestries—magic carpets.

KEN STEVEN | *IONA*, *WILD HORSES*, *COLUMBA*

*Offshoots* is an original, astonishing array of daring and intelligent voices. It is a joy to read!

FRED LEEBRON | *IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS*, *SIX FIGURES*,  
*OUT WEST*