

AWP's Twenty-seventh Tweet Chat: #AWPMentorship December 3, 2019 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET



[AWP@awpwriter](https://twitter.com/AWP@awpwriter)

Today we are celebrating [#GivingTuesday](#) with our annual tweet chat, at 2:00 pm EST, hosted by Diane Zinna. Learn more about our Writer to Writer program, and chat with past and current mentors and mentees! [#12dayofW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Hi, Everyone! I'm Diane Zinna, and over the next hour I'll be answering your questions about AWP's Writer to Writer Mentorship Program! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Vanessa Chan @vanjchan](https://twitter.com/vanjchan)

Hey there! How often to writers and mentors meet/communicate typically?



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Hi Vanessa! Mentors agree to spend at least 1 hour a week with their mentees, and they communicate via email, phone, or Skype--whatever works best for them!



Shikha Malaviya [@ShikhaMalaviya](#)

Hi, I'm a four time mentor in poetry and talk/connect with my mentees on a weekly basis. Our calls run between 1-2 hours. [#awpmentorship](#) [#awpw2w](#)



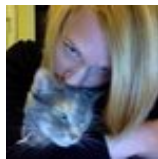
Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

You give so much of yourself every time. Thank you, Shikha!



Julie Draskoczy Zigoris [@jzigoris](#)

I talked on the phone for an hour bi-weekly with my mentor and had ongoing email threads for things that came up in between. Writers make individual arrangements with their mentors, so it'll be different for everyone.



Terri Wise [@TNWise](#)

Julie, my experience has been very similar to yours: bi-weekly phone calls and ongoing email threads, with extra communication if something comes up.



Irene Hoge Smith [@IreneHSmith](#)

Happy to be in touch about my experience as a mentee; I assume you are looking to be a mentor?



Vanessa Chan [@vanjchan](#)

Me? No, no, mentee!



Vanessa Chan [@vanjchan](#)

Love all this thank you everyone!



Sandra Gail Lambert [@sandalambert](#)

I'm ready for the AWP mentorship tweet chat! I've mentored a couple of times. Ask me anything. [#AWPmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

And [@sandalambert](#) will be coming back to mentor again for the Spring 2020 season! So Sandra--perhaps you can let people know here what you will be looking for in the mentee applications presented to you? [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Califragile Poetry [@CalifragileP](#)

I'm in Goddard's MFA program and, in addition to publishing my poetry, I plan to teach. How does an AWP mentor help with building a career? Also, I'm older. Would I fit?



Sandra Gail Lambert [@sandalambert](#)

Someone else can provide a better answer about MFA programs, but I can say that us "older" folk definitely fit. [#AWPmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#)



Bruce Owens Grimm [@bruceowensgrimm](#)

Good to know “older” folk fit. I think I’m going to apply to be a mentee.



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

I will watch for your application!



Bruce Owens Grimm [@bruceowensgrimm](#)

Yay! Thank you!



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Hi! Absolutely, and you'd be so welcome! Take a look at our current mentee page & you'll see our mentees are adults from all age groups. Our program focuses on the writing life, including careers inside/outside academia. Just express that need in the app. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

The biggest help [#W2W](#) gave me was a better understanding of craft (drafting, revising, etc.), which is the biggest building block in any career. My advisor also had a lot of practical advice about the submissions process and finding the right journals. [#awpmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

We’re also joined today by many current and past mentors and mentees who have helped make W2W what it is! They are here to answer your questions, too! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Trish Hopkinson [@trishhopkinson](#)

I'm a little bit late to the party, but thrilled to be a mentee this year! I've learned so much, made a good friend, and really enjoyed it. [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Thank you, Trish! <3



Romana Iorga [@Romanalorga](#)

I loved my experience in the W2W program! It validated my work and made me a more confident writer. Thank you, [@DianeZinna](#) and [@awpwriter](#) for matching me with my wonderful mentor [@ErinHoover](#)! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Erin Hoover [@ErinHoover](#)

I learned so much from my time serving as a mentor through [#AWPW2W](#)! Thank you [@Romanalorga](#) for our many conversations about poetry and for the opportunity to see your work evolve. [@DianeZinna](#) matched us well! [#awpmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#)



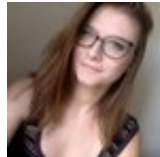
Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

AWP's Writer to Writer Mentorship Program has two sessions per year (spring and fall). Our current session is our **largest** ever with 44 mentor-mentee matches. Before this one, our largest session was 30 pairs. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

You can read all about our beloved Writer to Writer (W2W) Mentorship Program (W2W) at this link: https://awpwriter.org/community_calendar/mentorship_program_overview...
[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



AmyVictoriaBlakemore @AmyV Blakemore

Y'all, this program is great. It helped me stay motivated and add structure to my writing during a bonkers busy point in my life. And I am *still* using the outlines and the drafts I started with my mentor [@roberts keena](#) a year later.
[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Sandra Gail Lambert @sandralambert

[#AWPmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#) It's not so much what I'm looking for in a mentee, but what I think I can offer them. My goal in mentoring with the program is to work with writers with disabilities.



Califragile Poetry @CalifragileP

I am currently on disability. Since my family went through the Camp Fire, I decided to return to school with the plan of teaching creative writing at the college level. Although I can no longer do physical work, I want to build on my strengths.



Elyse Durham @durham elyse

Last year, Writer to Writer gave me a mentor at the perfect time--I had just quit my day job, was plunging into writing full-time, and was absolutely terrified. W2W took my hand and gave me the courage to start. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

It's crazy to think about how much has happened since then. Last month, I just finished my first semester of my MFA and published my first short story in [@CincinnatiReview](#) - both unimaginable a year ago. Another person's faith in you makes all the difference.



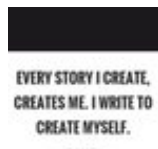
sakae manning [@sakaetrlist](#)

Join in on the [#AWPmentorship](#) convo with [@DianeZinna](#), current mentors, and mentees. Now!



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Thank you, Sakae! We'd love for you to share what your experience this season has been! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



sakae manning [@sakaetrlist](#)

[@DianeZinna](#) [@awpwriter](#) my mentorship with [@jennyleeSD](#) has brought me closer to understanding craft and how it relates to my work. It has gifted me with a mentor who is a writer and knows writing in an intimate way. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



sakae manning [@sakaetrlist](#)

There is a generosity amongst mentees in supporting each other, and my mentor has been an incredible resource with a wicked sense of humor.

[@jennyleeSD](#) [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#) [#writingcommunity](#) [#womenwriting](#)



Julie Draskoczy Zigoris @jzigoris

If anyone has questions about the [#awpmentorship](#) and [#AWPW2W](#) I'd be happy to answer them! I have benefited enormously from this program with [@awpwriter](#) and my mentor [@ConfusedNarwhal](#). Thank you to [@DianeZinna](#) for everything you do to keep it going strong!



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

I am so grateful you applied and I was able to make this match, Julie! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#). I just had a feeling about you and Meg!



Emily Huso @EmilyHuso

This is me and my AWP mentor [@ChaunaCraig](#) at the Writer to Writer meetup in Portland! Chauna has been a steady source of guidance and inspiration since our W2W relationship began in spring 2017. [#AWPW2W](#) [#AWPMentorship](#)





Sandra Gail Lambert [@sandralambert](#)

[#AWPMentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#) Also, I'm a writer very much outside of the academic world so I think I can offer some knowledge of how to make your way in the writing world without that sort of background.



Marlena Chertock [@Mchertock](#)

Participating in [@awpwriter](#)'s Writer to Writer Mentorship Program has been a great experience! I've loved getting to review [@cbratbyrudd](#)'s manuscript & chatting about the writing life.

Consider applying to be a mentor or mentee next season

[#AWPW2W](#) [#AWPMentorship](#) [@DianeZinna](#)



Marlena Chertock [@Mchertock](#)

So glad I got to meet [@cbratbyrudd](#), my AWP Writer to Writer mentee in LA! Can't wait to see where her books end up

[#AWPW2W](#) [#AWPMentorship](#)

[@DianeZinna](#)





[Ruth Ebenstein @RuthEbenstein](#)

Grateful to [@DianeZinna](#) for finding me the perfect [#mentor](#). Writers, consider supporting [#awpmentorship](#), a free program for members of [@awpwriter](#) matching seasoned writers w/emerging ones! My experience was transformative [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#) [#writerslife](#) [#GivingTuesday](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

Ruth, you were one of those applications where I decided I MUST find just the right mentor for you. I wouldn't give up. It took me a couple of seasons, but I know I found a beautiful partner for you! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Juanita Romaine @NitaRomaine](#)

I wish I could join the [#awpw2w](#) program, but I'm thrilled to be on the side to see all the wonderful mentees and mentors! Donate today [#givingtuesday!](#) [#awpmentorship](#) [@DianeZinna](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

AWP has over 7,000 individual members, and many are writers who have never been associated with an MFA program. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[R.L. Maizes @RL_Maizes](#)

I was mentored through this wonderful program and have applied to be a mentor for the spring session. Check it out whether you need a mentor or are willing to be one. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Everyone also needs to check out the incredible book of short stories by prior mentee R.L. Maizes, WE LOVE ANDERSON COOPER. I've been trying to get her to mentor for [#awpw2w](#) for a few seasons now, and she will officially be with us for the Spring 2020 season starting this Feb!



AWP @awpwriter

We are thrilled to have you [@RL_Maizes](#) back, as a mentor for season 12 of [#AWPw2w](#)!



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

This program was created because we wanted to do something for those who are writing from backgrounds typically underrepresented in the literary world and those who have taken paths different from the MFA. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Leah Zitter, Ph.D @ZitterWriter

Where can I find more info on this please? Thanks.



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Hi Leah! You can find information about the Writer to Writer program at https://awpwriter.org/community_calendar/mentorship_program_overview



Leah Zitter, Ph.D @ZitterWriter

Hi Diana, Where is this Submittable that I can find/ download the application for a mentor? (Your link only provided mentor applications. It suggested I go to Submittable for a mentee one. Do you have the link to that?) Thanks again.



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

That is made available when submissions open Jan 1-12!



Leah Zitter, Ph.D @ZitterWriter

Will you tweet a reminder? Or should I bookmark the link you gave me previously? (Will I find that there?)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Yes, but I will also Tweet tons of reminders!



Leah Zitter, Ph.D @ZitterWriter

Wonderful! I'm following you...



LouiseWarehamLeonard @LouiseWLeonard1

Can you imagine George Eliot in an MFA program? Or the Bronte sisters?



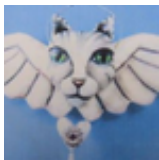
AWP @awpwriter

[#MadewithLove](#)



Kathleen Driskell @kathdriskell

Today is beginning of #12 Days of Writer to Writer: The Gift of Caring. Give a little something in honor of one of your past writing mentors. I want to remember Jim Clark @UNCGMFA and his enormous generosity to his MFA students & the amazing @MollyPeacock3 <3 to her.
[@awpwriter](#)



Wychserif @wychserif

How did Writer to Writer come about? Whose idea was it? How long has it been going on?



Kathleen Driskell @kathdriskell

Questions about how to find a writing mentor? Check out this chat



R.L. Maizes [@RL_Maizes](#)

Also a great place to donate to.



Ruth Ebenstein [@RuthEbenstein](#)

Grateful to [@DianeZinna](#) for finding me the perfect #mentor. Writers, consider supporting #awpmentorship, a free program for members of [@awpwriter](#) matching seasoned writers w/emerging ones! My experience was transformative #awpw2w #awpmentorship #writerslife #GivingTuesday



Kathleen Driskell [@kathdriskell](#)

[Things to celebrate this season!!!!](#) [@awpwriter](#)



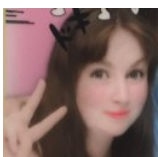
Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

My W2W mentor gave me the greatest gift one writer can give another: generous and thoughtful feedback. He modeled the kind of curiosity and open-mindedness every writer needs to draft and revise. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



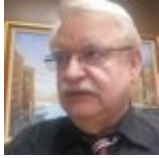
Julie Draskoczy Zigoris [@jzigoris](#)

I am so grateful for my mentor [@ConfusedNarwhal](#) in the [#awpmentorship](#). She became my "go-to" person for advice by email and during our bi-weekly chats. [#AWPW2W](#) through [@awpwriter](#).



meg eden [@ConfusedNarwhal](#)

<3 You've been such a delight to mentor, Julie!



[Michael Wells @stickpoet](#)

The experience of the [#AWPW2W](#) program was such an encouragement and many of the mentees stay in contact which over the years adds to the value it offers.



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

While the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program is open to all members, we especially encourage apps from writers of color, writers with disabilities, LGBTQ+ writers, and those who don't have an MFA. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Elyse Durham @durham_elyse](#)

The most unexpected gift [@awpwriter](#) gave me was the gift of community. Writing can be so lonely, and having a cohort to struggle with made all the difference. We all did [#W2W](#) a year ago and we still keep in touch! We share top reading picks and cheer each other on. [#awpmentorship](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

Yes, you can apply if you already have your MFA! People need mentors at every stage of their career. Every stage comes with new questions. Each season we have many writers with MFAs take part. You are welcome! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Elyse Durham @durham_elyse](#)

Being knee-deep in my MFA now (at a program that I love!), I can say the two experiences are very compatible, but unique from each other. [#W2W](#) fills different needs than grad school (though I will say it prepared me well!), community being one of them. [#awpmentorship](#) [@AWP](#)



Romana Iorga [@Romanalorga](#)

I had my MFA years ago, then got busy with work and family. [#AWPW2W](#) is just the right kind of program I needed to be in to restart my writing engine!



Rose Andersen [@roseandersen](#)

I was lucky to be able to mentor [@ap_mess](#) during this round of [@awpwriter](#)'s Writer to Writer Mentorship Program. AP is damn good writer- their work is visceral, haunting and lingers long after you encounter it. Keep an eye out for their work! [#AWPMentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



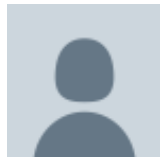
Rose Andersen [@roseandersen](#)

Have any questions about the AWP Writer to Writer Mentorship Program? I am happy to answer anything I can! Highly recommend signing up as a mentor or mentee! Or head over to [@DianeZinna](#)'s page as she answers questions about the program! [#AWPMentorship](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

You are wonderful, Rose! I have loved watching from the sidelines with your relationship with your mentee this season. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Evelyn LaTorre [@EvelynsEdits1](#)

I applied but wasn't given a mentor. Are there qualifications I don't know about?



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Hi Evelyn! We usually get around 400 applications for each session and there are usually around 30 mentors serving with us at any given time.

Often people have to apply a few times before finding their right match. But when you do, it can be magic. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



AWP @awpwriter

Today is the day! Donate to #AWPW2W and help us pair seasoned mentors with a new batch of emerging writers. Celebrate #GivingTuesday with us as we begin #12daysofW2W! #12daysofGiving <http://bit.ly/AWPGive2019>



Joshunda Sanders @JoshundaSanders

It has been incredible & uplifting to work with [@ToniRussell84](#) as part of [#AWPW2W](#) under the enthusiastic guidance of [@DianeZinna](#). Especially as a writer who made my career largely outside of the MFA experience. It's been good for my soul to share the journey.



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Joshunda, you have been AMAZING and such a positive force this season of [#awpmentorship](#)! Thank you from all of us at [#AWPW2W](#)!



[Joshunda Sanders @JoshundaSanders](#)

Wow thank you. That means so much to me. And thank you for all of your stellar work.



[Hadley Moore @HadleyMoore10](#)

I got to work with the wonderful [@ChristineSneed](#) through this program. And now I'm rich and famous! JK, but it was really helpful to my writing life.



[Christine Sneed @ChristineSneed](#)

It was a joy, and what a worthy program!



[Sandra Gail Lambert @sandralambert](#)

So far I've had a continuing connection with former mentees. Today I sent letters of recommendation to MFA programs for one and worked on editing a piece for the W2W upcoming anthology with another. [#AWPmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#)



[Sheila Black @SheilaFionaB](#)

Sandra I love that - it is what makes the program so special.



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

We often receive applications from individuals who feel geographically isolated from writers and writing communities. A program like this can help. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



R.L. Maizes @RL_Maizes

The program has given me a wonderful community of writers. [#awpw2w](#)



Ruth Ebenstein @RuthEbenstein

My [#mentor](#), Amy Gottlieb, made me feel that perhaps I could find a way to convey the magic of my memoir's story. It's about an [#Israeli-#Palestinian](#) friendship born through [#breastcancer](#). [#AWPMentorship](#) opened a door to members of [@apwriter](#), gratis. Thanks, AWP - & Amy! [#AWPW2W](#)



Julie Draskoczy Zigoris @jzigoris

Writing can be a lonely endeavor, but you don't have to do it alone! I encourage [#writers](#) to apply for the [#awpmentorship](#) run through [@awpwriter](#). I have gained so much from this program. [#AWPW2W](#) [#amwriting](#) [#amrevising](#) [#W2W](#)



Marlena Chertock @Mchertock

Participating in [@awpwriter](#)'s Writer to Writer Mentorship Program has been a great experience! I've loved getting to review [@cbratbyrudd](#)'s manuscript & chatting about the writing life. Consider applying to be a mentor or mentee next season [#AWPW2W](#) [#AWPMentorship](#) [@DianeZinna](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

It has been such an honor having you as a part of the AWP Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, Marlina! You are making such a huge difference! [#awpmentorship](#) [#awpw2w](#)



Elyse Durham @durham_elyse

I LOVED being a mentee for [@awpwriter](#)'s mentoring program, Writer to Writer. It was really a life-changing experience. Hit me up with your questions! [#w2w](#) [#awpmentoring](#)



Elyse Durham @durham_elyse

The biggest help #W2W gave me was a better understanding of craft (drafting, revising, etc.), which is the biggest building block in any career. My advisor also had a lot of practical advice about the submissions process and finding the right journals. [#awpmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Elyse, you have been on fire since the program ended! I love hearing about and celebrating all of your writing news! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Elyse Durham @durham_elyse

Diane, I owe you (and [@awpwriter](#)) so much, and I'm so grateful. Hearing you celebrate is one of the biggest reasons I keep going! [#W2W](#) gives us lonely writers the chutzpah to keep at it when the work gets tough.



Donna Tallent @linoleumrose

[#AWPMentorship](#) program matches emerging writers w/ experienced mentors. I have been on an incredible journey with my mentor and made long-lasting friendships. Thank you, [@DianeZinna](#) and the [@awpwriter](#) folks for all you do.

A worthy program to support on [#GivingTuesday](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Thank you, Donna!



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

We don't just match people and step away! We check in regularly and provide space for participants to connect & share all they are learning with one another. [#awpmentorship](#)
[#AWPW2W](#)



Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

This is SO true! [@DianeZinna](#) and [@awpwriter](#) and my [#W2W](#) cohort have continued to be an amazing source of support, even a year later. My mentor and I also keep in touch - you all are like my shoulder angels!



Lisa Whalen [@LisIrishWhalen](#)

I agree! The [#W2W](#) cohort is a great source of support, and my mentor, [@gailfolkins](#), offered to co-write an essay with me a year after our official mentorship ended, so the learning doesn't always end once the mentorship does.



AWP [@awpwriter](#)

[#MadewithLove](#) [@awpw2w](#) [#givingtuesday](#)



Ruth Ebenstein [@RuthEbenstein](#)

My [#mentor](#), the wonderful Amy Gottlieb, writes poetry and fiction. I write [#creativenonfiction](#). I applied a few times to [#AWPMentorship](#) - but did not give up. [@DianeZinna](#) also didn't! She crossed genre lines - & found me Amy! Am I blessed, or what? Thanks [#AWP](#) & Diane! [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Being involved with the program all along the way is so rewarding to me. Reading every application helps all of us on the membership team better understand our members' needs and dreams. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Joe Milazzo [@joemilazzo94](#)

When I first applied to [#AWPW2W](#), the [#AWPMentorship](#) program, my aspiration was to be a mentee. Somehow, I ended up being a mentor instead. Big thanks to [@DianeZinna](#), her staff, and the writers with whom I've worked for welcoming me into their literary communities.



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Many of our mentors were inspired to apply to the program because of great mentors they have had, a desire to pay it forward. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Sandra Gail Lambert [@sandrallambert](#)

And some of us want to be a mentor because we never had one.



Olivia Katrandjian [@okatrandjian](#)

This [#GivingTuesday](#), consider giving the gift of a mentor to an emerging writer in need through the incredible program run by [@DianeZinna](#) and [@awpwriter](#). I could not be more grateful for the time I spent soaking up everything [@jfsteil7](#) had to say! [#AWPMentorship](#)



Olivia Katrandjian [@okatrandjian](#)

The [#AWPMentorship](#) program also connects you with other writers, and a year after participating, our cohort is still in touch almost every week. Having such a supportive and inspiring community is a special gift in such a solitary profession.



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Olivia! We continue to celebrate your being a finalist for the Luxembourg National Literary Prize! We are all so proud of you.



Olivia Katrandjian [@okatrandjian](#)

Thank you, [@DianeZinna](#). The first person I told after my husband was [@jfsteil7](#)!



Jennifer Steil [@jfsteil7](#)

I am equally grateful for all I learn from you and for all of your support [@okatrandjian](#)!!! I am so lucky to have you in my life.



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Other mentors apply because they know what a difference a mentor would have made on their journey. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

I still remember the moment [@DianeZinna](#) told me I'd been accepted to [#W2W](#). I had just gotten a slew of rejections and I was starting to wonder if this writing thing was for me. Diane's email felt like the universe had grabbed a megaphone and yelled "KEEP GOING" [@awpwriter](#)



Elyse Durham @durham_elyse

I was in a coffeeshop when I got that life-changing email from [@DianeZinna](#). I yelled. People stared. I think I even jumped up and spilled my coffee. If my otherwise-boring life is ever made into a movie, that moment will be in the trailer.



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Attention please: I still want you to KEEP GOING!



AWP @awpwriter

A [#moviemoment](#) if we've heard one. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#) [#givingtuesday](#)



Julie Draskoczy Zigoris @jzigoris

I had such a similar experience!



[sakae manning @sakaetrlist](#)

<3



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

We're also joined today by many current and past mentors and mentees who have helped make W2W what it is! They are here to answer your questions, too! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Trish Hopkinson @trishhopkinson](#)

I'm a little bit late to the party, but thrilled to be a mentee this year! I've learned so much, made a good friend, and really enjoyed it. [#AWPW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

Thank you, Trish! <3



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

The 6 modules of the Writer to Writer Program are meant to help you think about life as a writer. How will I find support? How do I develop my process? What do I do when I lose focus or inspiration? [#AWPW2W](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Diane Zinna @DianeZinna](#)

Our mentors volunteer their time, and there is no charge for the Writer to Writer mentorship. The only requirement is that you're a member of AWP. This is a program meant to build our community--and it has in such amazing ways! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Juanita Romaine [@NitaRomaine](#)

As I sit across from [@DianeZinna](#), I see the overwhelming emotion on her face of all the mentees and mentors and their kind words. What a community, what a beautiful family [#AWPMentorship](#) [#awpw2w](#) [#givingtuesday](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

[#W2W](#) Tweet Chats make me emotional.



Ruth Ebenstein [@RuthEbenstein](#)

On [#GivingTuesday](#) consider supporting [#AWPMentorship](#), which connects seasoned [#writers](#) w/emerging ones. Even just ten dollars can make a difference. Writers open hearts, minds, souls. Be a part of that creative magic! A worthwhile investment! [#AWPW2W](#) [#AWPwriter](#) [#writerslife](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Spring 2020 will be our 12th season, and we can't wait to show you our new slate of mentors. This program keeps getting better! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Our mentors have to apply as well. We look for mentors who will, above all, be supportive, responsive, and open to learning from the experience themselves. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Lisa Whalen @Lisalrishwhalen

This [#GivingTuesday](#), consider giving the gift of a mentor to an emerging writer through the incredible [#writer2writer](#) program run by [@DianeZinna](#) and [@awpwriter](#). I'm grateful to have learned from my mentor, [@gailfolkins](#). [#AWPMentorship](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Did I mention mentors volunteer their time for this program? We are so grateful and watch from the sidelines with full hearts. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Abbie Kiefer @heyAbbieK

Such an act of generosity!



EVERY STORY I CREATE,
CREATES ME. I WRITE TO
CREATE MYSELF.

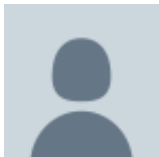
sakae manning @sakaetrlist

clap *clap* *clap* *heart*



Raksha Vasudevan@RakshaVasudevan

I often talk to my mentor [@sayan10](#) on weekends, given her busy teaching schedule. I'm so grateful for her generous she is with her time "off." [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Kathy Ridenhour@herwimsey

As W2W poetry reader, one of my favorite things about our program is our News & Celebrations page <http://bit.ly/380howM>, where we share the good news and achievements of our former mentors and mentees. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

We also look at excellent applicants from previous sessions who didn't get matched and try again to pair them. Sometimes we read something in that app that won't let us go.

[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[**Romana Iorga@Romanalorga**](#)

I was one of those applicants. So glad I applied again--thank you for not giving up on me!



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

We love you, Romana! [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[**Romana Iorga @Romanalorga**](#)

Love you right back!



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

When matching writers for Writer to Writer, we like to think there is a bit of magic at work.

[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

Writers of genre-bending or unique work: please apply! Our pairings often find striking commonalities—and grow through differences. One of our favorite phrases:

[#genrepromiscuous](#) [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



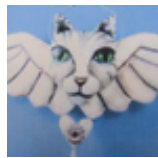
Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

For those who want to apply to Writer to Writer, [@awpwriter](#)'s mentoring program, but are feeling sheepish, DO IT! Even the process of applying and articulating yourself and your work is a valuable experience. PS: the program is also awesome [#W2W](#) [#awpmentor](#)



Elyse Durham [@durham_elyse](#)

Everybody deals with impostor syndrome, but for emerging writers it's especially bad. It feels like such an audacious thing to call yourself a writer. [@DianeZinna](#) [@awpwriter](#) and my Writer to Writer mentor taught me that YOU decide if you're a writer. (PS: you are) [#W2W](#)



wychserif [@wychserif](#)

I knew people in my MFA program who showed up with a novel and just wanted to get it published. That doesn't seem like much of a learning experience! W2W looks more like a "teach a person to fish" experience.



Rose Andersen [@roseandersen](#)

Me, ready and waiting to answer any questions about the [@awpwriter](#)'s Writer to Writer Mentorship Program. [#AWPMentorship](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

What makes us set an application aside? When looking at mentee apps, we tend to set aside those from writers looking for a fast path to publication. We are not that. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

I see a lot of brand-new writers eager to jump into publication, get agents, sign book deals, etc. Honey, life is long, and being a writer is so much more than that. Plan for the long haul! [@awpwriter](#) helped me understand that the work is its own reward. [#W2W](#)



[Jennifer Savran Kelly@savranly](#)

It's true that [#awpmentorship](#) is not a fast path to publication. Since my session in '14, I've continued to write and to look for a home for the 2 novels I've completed. But the program does offer wonderful support through the long and sometimes arduous journey!



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

W2W is about relationship building between 2 writers and their mutual growth. Mentors often state they learn just as much. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Shikha Malaviya @ShikhaMalaviya](#)

I'm so proud to be associated with AWP's Writer to Writer program these past 4 years! Please consider supporting them this Giving Tuesday. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

Thinking about applying? When submitting your 10-page writing sample, be sure to submit CURRENT work (and for fiction/CNF, please, the first 10 pages). You want someone who will read your work and say, "I can help them with this project." [#AWPW2W](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

Mentors don't tend to look for the best or most accomplished writer. They look for the person they think they can best help. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Juanita Romaine@NitaRomaine

For those just joining, I'm Nita, Director of Social Media with [@awpwriter](#). I am thrilled to say we have raised \$5,150 thus far! We are now over half way to our goal of \$10,000! Thank you so much to all those who have donated/pledged to [#awpw2w](#) for [#givingtuesday](#).



Diane Zinna @DianeZinna

To those who have applied, or are thinking of applying, what do you hope to gain from the program? [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna@DianeZinna

To the mentors who are chatting with us today--what made you choose your mentee? [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna@DianeZinna

Our mentors and mentees find community with one another as well. (I've seen lots of mentees meet new critique partners!) Closed Facebook groups and group calls help this along. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna@DianeZinna

We have had some very memorable pairings. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

[@realjefferyhess](#) runs a writing group for military vets; in our first season, he was paired with a military wife longing to tell her husband's story. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

It's been kind of funny going from [#W2W](#) to the MFA at Warren Wilson College, where we are also given advisors each semester by some mysterious process. I'm pretty sure both programs own The Sorting Hat and just pass it back and forth. In both cases, magic.

[@awpwriter](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

We send 3 or 4 applications, along with writing samples, to each mentor. The mentor then chooses the 1 person they want to work with. This season 2 mentors couldn't choose and promised to work with 1 in the fall & 1 in the spring. We're great matchmakers!

[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

Mentees also take time to consider the mentor's work before accepting their place in the program. That way, when the mentor and mentee begin the program, they are doing so having chosen each other. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[**Elyse Durham@durham_elyse**](#)

Every single writer succeeds in part because many, many people have supported them. If that's you, and you're looking for a way to pay it forward, consider giving to [@awpwriter](#). Their mentorship program welcomes emerging writers into the community we all love so dearly. [#W2W](#)



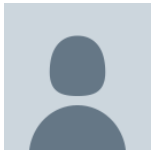
[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

Thank you, Elyse! The #AWPMentorship #GivingTuesday link is here for anyone looking to share: https://awpwriter.org/store/donations_givingtuesday



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

Next season, previous mentee Amanda Niehaus will be serving as a mentor. (So excited about this!) The cover of her new book THE BREEDING SEASON bears a blurb from Alice Sebold...who was her mentor in 2015. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[**Kathy Ridenhour@herwimsey**](#)

Want to hear even more after the tweet chat? You can read about our mentors' and mentees' experiences in their own words at our W2W Program Reflections page. <http://bit.ly/2rcbckD> [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[**AWP@awpwriter**](#)

Kathy [@herwimsey](#) is also a great source of information! Thank you Kathy for all that you do for members and [#awpmentorship](#) also!



[**Diane Zinna@DianeZinna**](#)

Pairs talk about ways to maintain a writing life while balancing family and paying jobs. Mentors and mentees, share your stories! [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)

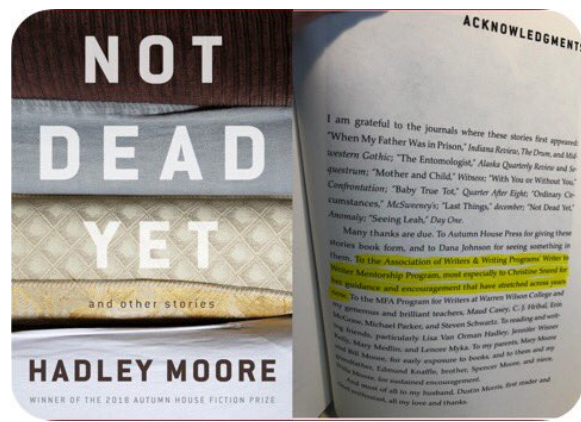


[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

To our mentors and mentees—share your collaborations and projects that were inspired or helped along by your [#awpmentorship](#) experience. [#AWPW2W](#)



[Hadley Moore@HadleyMoore10](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

Oh, Hadley, it makes me so happy to read this note for your mentor Christine Sneed on your acknowledgements page! Congratulations on this collection from all of us!



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

I just published my first short story, and when I read a draft of that story to my [#W2W](#) mentor last year, hearing him laugh over the phone was what told me I was on to something. Sometimes, it's so hard to know that all alone!
[@awpwriter](#)

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CREATE MYSELF.

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sakae.manning@sakaetrust

Congratulations!!



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](https://www.facebook.com/DianeZinna)

We celebrate our mentors and mentees in our social media and at the AWP conference at our annual reception! Sometimes it's the first chance for a pairing to see each other face to face. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#).



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](https://www.facebook.com/DianeZinna)

Though we didn't expect this, about 1/3 of our mentors have come back to us asking to serve again. [#awpmentorship](#). [#AWPW2W](#)



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

I can't WAIT until I'm far enough along to be a mentor for [#W2W](#)! This program made so much possible for me, and I want to be that support for someone else.

[@awpwriter](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

This touches me so much! Thank you, Elyse! I will be SO THRILLED to have you as a mentor. I will be even more excited to see your book out in the world and will celebrate you every step of the way. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Shikha Malaviya@ShikhaMalaviya](#)

I love one on one mentorship because it's not one size fits all. You get to work with a mentee's specific requirements and give them support where it's most needed.



[Shikha Malaviya@ShikhaMalaviya](#)

I'm so proud to be associated with AWP's Writer to Writer program these past 4 years! Please consider supporting them this Giving Tuesday. [#awpmentorship](#) [#awpw2w](#) [#awp](#)
https://www.awpwriter.org/store/donations_givingtuesday



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

Many of our mentoring pairs told us that they planned on keeping in touch once their session ended. Many are still working together 5 years later, even though the formal commitment is only 3 months. [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

To the mentees who are with us today—how has the [#awpmentorship](#) program affected the writing goals that you have set? Any new goals? [#AWPW2W](#)



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

Working with my [#W2W](#) mentor helped me realize that I was dreaming too small. Why not do four more drafts of this story to make it the best it can be? Why not start submitting to journals? Why not apply to grad school? And above all--why not keep writing forever?

[@awpwriter](#)



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

I once asked my [#W2W](#) mentor what success as a writer meant to him. He said, "It means wanting to get up the next day and write again." And that, friends, is the best part of any of this. Aren't we all here for the love of words? Grateful for my mentor's sage advice.

[@awpwriter](#)



[Romana Iorga@Romanalorga](#)

I wanted some guidance on putting together a manuscript and [@ErinHoover](#) gave me brilliant advice! The new goal is to keep at it--writing and submitting and reading other people's work. I have a sense of belonging after my experience in the [#AWPW2W](#) program.



[Erin Hoover@ErinHoover](#)

<3 emojis



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CREATES ME. I WRITE TO
CREATE MYSELF.

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sakae_manning@sakaetrust

After my 50 page feedback and outline work, I'm entering my book with fresh eyes and a process I can tangibly manage. It's been an at times scary thing to consider I can actually do this book. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](mailto:DianeZinna@DianeZinna)

To the mentees and mentors who are with us today—what advice would you give to future participants? [#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



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CREATES ME. I WRITE TO
CREATE MYSELF.

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sakae_manning@sakaetrust

Mentees; do not give up even if declined many times. It costs nothing to apply, and not finding a mentor right away isn't a reflection on you. It just means the right match hasn't happened yet. [#awpw2w](#) [#awpmentorship](#)



[Shikha Malaviya@ShikhaMalaviya](mailto:ShikhaMalaviya@ShikhaMalaviya)

The clearer you are on what you want from the mentorship, the more you'll get out of it :) Also, keep your expectations realistic. Pace yourself and don't expect a full manuscript revision. Good things take time.



[Sayantani Dasgupta@sayan10e](mailto:SayantaniDasgupta@sayan10e)

Be flexible! I couldn't be more appreciative of my mentee [@RakshaVasudevan](#) and how open she's been to all that we've tried.



[Elyse Durham@durham_elyse](#)

Make space in your life for being part of this amazing experience! You only get one chance to be a mentee, and you'll get as much out of it as you put in. (Also, build connections with your cohort! They'll be your cheering squad as life goes on.)



[BrendaJoycePatterson@BJoycePatterson](#)

I'm so thankful for [#awpw2w](#). [@CallistaBuchen](#)'s [@awpmentorship](#) gave me such a boost in confidence & changed how I view my writing for the better. I so agree about building connections. If not for [@awpwriter](#), I'd never met [@Romanalorga](#).



[BrendaJoycePatterson@BJoycePatterson](#)

She convinced to me, a black girl from Central Florida, to try translating Romania poetry into English. I'm still SMH about that bit of miracle. [#awpw2w](#) opens doors and broadens horizons. I'm eternally grateful to Diane, Callista, Romana, and my entire Fall 2018 (9th) cohort.



[Romana Iorga@Romanalorga](#)

Brenda, it was amazing to a translation project together! We definitely tried at least one (if not six!) seemingly impossible thing(s) before breakfast.



[BrendaJoycePatterson@BJoycePatterson](#)

Romana, don't count us out. Life has indeed been chaotic but I still want to keep doing the impossible. I'm itching to work on more translating. Fingers crossed I'll get better at it.



[Romana Iorga@Romanalorga](#)

I'm here, in the Swiss woods, hugging trees. Always ready for more impossible things. We all get better at the impossible the more we chip at it.



[BrendaJoycePatterson](#)
[@BJoycePatterson](#)



[Kate Ristau @KateRistau](#)

I've loved working with [@jennysuegamboa](#)! We have adapted the program to fit us, and are stretching out our time together. It's been an amazing experience!



Maureen McGuirk [@mcguirkstudios](#)

Keep applying! It took me three goes to be paired up, and it truly is a great match. If you're picked, enjoy the experience, because it goes by so fast.



Matt Bell [@mdbell79](#)

I'll second [@mcguirkstudios](#)'s suggestion! I'm glad she was in the pool this year so we could work together!



Sarah Leamy [@dirtroadsndogs](#)

Set realistic goals for revision and submission.



Sarah Dalton [@sdaltonwrites](#)

Get involved- online, AWP readings, the booth, W2W panels. Make connections. Meet the incredible network of talented, inspiring ppl. Don't be afraid to be vulnerable abt imposter syndrome, doubts, frustrations and joys



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

We want to hear from you! What are you looking for in a mentorship experience?
[#awpmentorship](#) [#AWPW2W](#)



Diane Zinna [@DianeZinna](#)

Mentee applications for our 12th season of the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program are welcome January 1-12. Mentor applications are welcome now. [#awpmentorship](#)
<https://awp.submittable.com/submit> [#AWPW2W](#)



[Irene Hoge Smith@IreneHSmith](#)

[#AWPMentorship](#) and [#AWPW2W](#)

[@awpwriter](#) [@dianezinna](#)

AWP's Writer-to-Writer program changed my writing life. Claude Clayton Smith was the perfect mentor and [@DianeZinna](#) is a rock star



[Diane Zinna@DianeZinna](#)

YOU are a rock star. I'm still kicking myself that I didn't get to your reading at the Writer's Center!



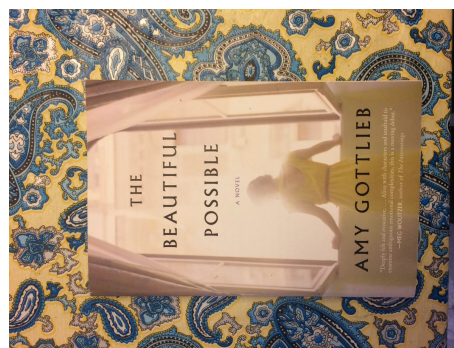
[Erin Hoover@ErinHoover](#)

I learned so much from my time serving as a mentor through [#AWPW2W](#)! Thank you [@Romanalorga](#) for our many conversations about poetry and for the opportunity to see your work evolve. [@DianeZinna](#) matched us well! [#awpmentorship](#) [@awpwriter](#)



[Ruth Ebenstein@RuthEbenstein](#)

This is the title of the gorgeous novel of my [#mentor](#), Amy Gottlieb. It's a metaphor for the [#AWPMentorship](#)! This [#mentorship](#) is the beautiful possible. It makes dreams come true. It's definitely doing that for me! Gratitude to [@AWPwriter](#), [@DianeZinna](#), & of course, Amy! [#AWPW2W](#)





[AWP@awpwriter](https://twitter.com/AWP@awpwriter)

We want to thank you all so much for participating in our annual [#GivingTuesday](#) tweet chat! It isn't too late to learn more about [#AWPW2W](#) by visiting:

https://awpwriter.org/community_calendar/mentorship_program_overview, or donate:

https://www.awpwriter.org/store/donations_givingtuesday