

THE JOURNEY OF HOPE



4 YEARS OF WRITERS
GUILD KENYA

4th
Anniversary
Celebrations



Let's keep trying

FOREWORD

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Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers.”

It is with great pleasure, delight and humility that we at Writers Guild Kenya invite you to share with us in marking our 4th Anniversary. It pleases my heart to be part and parcel of a cause that four years ago had not only the potential of transforming the lives of young people with artistry gifts but has since demonstrated that capacity by rekindling hope in the hearts of many with the ability to tell their stories to the world. Today, we celebrate a once nascent Writers Club that has tremendously grown to stand out as an emblem of hope for young writers, revitalizing their energies to pursue writing the more and streamlining a purposeful creation of artistic works in writing and poetic performance. Familiarly styled as the ‘Journey of Hope’, it is now clear that though Writers Guild Kenya has had its share of setbacks and uncertainties; it is now succinct with its goal of vesting and empowering the talent-goldmine of writing.

Anniversaries are wonderful, magical, celebratory occasions. We look at this incredibly uniting endeavor in retrospect and have no other words but of gratefulness to God that He placed the burden and burning desire in the Founder, Gabriel Dinda, through whom we have had the opportunity to achieve what we have today. The sensitization effort that Writers Guild has done with respect to embracing a constant reading culture and documentation of moments and upholding views through writing is one that every noble and knowledge-loving person will affirm to emphatically. As a matter of fact, we could all agree to the fact that a person who does not read is no different from the one who cannot read.

At this juncture, I must acknowledge all those of us who gladly joined hands with us to seeing



through the progress and success we have had in the past four years. A dream works through a team and the fact that you stood with us has been worth the investment of resources and time. On the same note, I congratulate all those of us who have become more daring to write publications and brought others to share in the knowledge, the audacities to churn out books, enduring the painful journey and our articulate poets who have flourished through the platform Writers Guild provides. I will encourage you to keep up with the same spirit and enrich further your imaginations and creativity and educate the world.

And as we take the time to express our gratitude for fantastic years gone by - we turn expectantly to the year that lies ahead. I wish to challenge us to exert ourselves the more, brace up and shift gears and endeavor to create the art that you have for so long procrastinated. As a long time writer, I am well acquainted with the fact that procrastination is one silent thief that has repeatedly deprived of the world good written content from creative minds such as those in here today. I will encourage you to suffocate your distractors and feed your creative faculties in writing by writing more often.

We look forward to another wonderful year - a time to build and strengthen forged relationships even further; a time to create and cherish even more shared memories and a time filled with dreams that are brought ever closer and milestones - whatever they may be - achieved.

Let's remember that, as once Robert Green said, "Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers." Let's keep pressing and ever be the sky the limit. Thank you - one and all - for being beside us this past year and may you be ever near in the years ahead.

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Desmond Boi,
Chairperson, Governing Council of Writers Guild Kenya

A SECTION OF OUR LOVELY AUTHORS



Nafisa Khanbhai: When I met Writers Guild Kenya, I met a Family for Real”

I connected with Writers Guild in July, 2017. The first person I met was Mr Gabriel Dinda and I found him to be very humble; always ready to give the right guidance and ever smiling. We embarked on a publishing journey for *Unbroken Wings*. During this time we talked almost daily. I connected with Paulette Anyango, yet another very humble and helpful lady. Despite the challenges, they worked with zeal and calmness.

What impresses me about Writers Guild Kenya is that it's not money-oriented but about uplifting and holding on together to great heights. It was challenging for me to edit the book word by word but the end result was amazing. I would recommend Writers Guild to anyone passionate about writing and publishing. I love the team despite meeting only three of them. I was truly impressed and touched when they came to Mombasa for the launch of the *Unbroken Wings* and how they livened the event.

Unbroken Wings talks about my life journey from birth; about a person, who despite her disability has moved on with life very positively. The best part of the book is the challenges a special needs person faces in relationships. It encourages special needs persons to live positively and achieve their dreams. It would be nice to always remember to: Live each day as it comes, laugh more, enjoy every moment, strive to make your dreams come true and before you die, leave a legacy to be remembered by.

Nafisa Khanbhai is the Author of *Unbroken Wings*, Published by Writers Guild Kenya, 2017

Leonard Ondigo: “My Penful Journey with Writers Guild Kenya”

I joined this platform sometime in 2014 when Writers Guild was in its prime and exclusively operated in Kenyatta University where I was a student. I was fascinated by the zeal the young writers had. Mr. Gabriel Dinda could in no occasion miss to mention the word 'passion'. “Do you have a passion in writing? In which particular area are you passionate about?” Constantly prodding members to give their best.

We started *All Senses Magazine*. I remember we contributed articles to the magazine. It is then that I discovered that I had a potential of being a writer. I redefined my niche and felt gravitated towards writing inspirational pieces. I perfected my writing with the help of fellow writers and resources through this platform. I kept the flame of passion on and I started putting together my thoughts towards a book.

JUST SCREAM was published in August 2017, though I finished writing in September 2016, it took me a year to get it published. Getting a suitable publisher got really daunting and at some point almost put off my dream. Despite contempt for young writers and lifelong wait for response from publishers, I met the Mystery Publishers (Publishing Partner of Writers Guild Kenya) through Writers Guild Kenya. Again, it took a few months to get through the process. We launched the book at Writers Guild Kenya in a colourful and impressive launch.

Just Scream is an inspirational Christian book; a compilation of short, mind-blowing pieces I call “nuggets” which touch on various socio-spiritual issues. It primarily inspires a man at the throes of life, to just scream for help. Help can come from friends, relatives, counselors but mostly from God.

Leonard Ondigo - Author, *Just Scream*, Published in 2017





Natasha Wambui: When age is not the Issue

My name is Natasha Wambui Ndegwa. I am in class six at CITAM Schools Woodley. I joined Writers Guild Kenya in 2016 during a Maji Mazuri Program.

We were asked a question on who founder of Apple was and to my surprise I was the only one who knew the answer. Gabriel Dinda invited me for a Writers Guild program that Friday. He told me that I had a great opportunity to become a great author. He asked me how I knew the answer to that question. I told him I do a lot of reading during my spare time. Another question was asked to me on how many books I had read that year(2017) and I answered that I had read 6 books in that one month. Gabriel advised me to start writing immediately.

At Writers Guild Kenya, I met two German friends; Max and Sabastian. They were also very encouraging. Max, Sabastian and Gabriel inspired me and I started writing immediately. I have found Writers Guild Kenya to be very supportive and now I am working on my second book (A sequel to *The Kidnappers* because of their support and motivation. I look to the future with confidence because I am in great company.

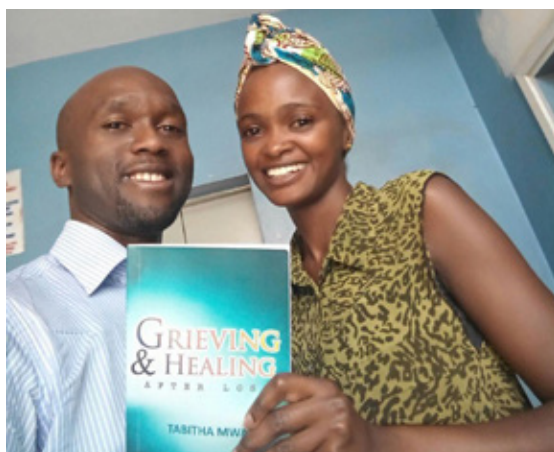
Natasha Wambui, 11, Author of *'The Kidnappers'*

Tabitha Mwai: How Writers Guild Kenya helped me Publish

I had heard about Writers Guild Kenya in 2016 but I never knew much about it and I felt like most of the programs were focused on students. When the Affiliate Writer Program was introduced in 2017, I registered since I thought I surely belonged.

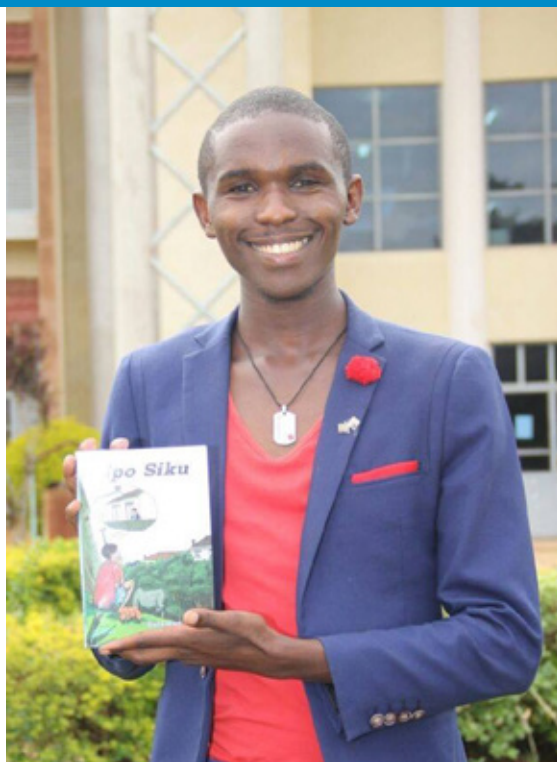
My most memorable moment was a session by Oyunga Pala. What got me thinking was how he has developed a routine to ensure he is always creative and how he has managed being relevant all these years. Given that my blog has a lot of content on relationships, I shared it with him and he gave me a thumbs up! Well, that was greatly encouraging.

I started writing my book as a memoir then as notes during grief counseling then it evolved into a manuscript. The publishing journey was not easy but the support I received enabled me to pull through.



'Grieving and Healing After Loss' is a book I call the healing toolkit.

Based on a personal experience, this book provides guidance on what to expect when you lose a loved one, how your life will change, as well as how to talk about it from a psychological and Christian perspective.



IPO SIKU” Na Solomon Muya

Tangu utotoni mwangu mwendazake babu yangu alikuwa na mazoea ya kunighania ngano haswa kuhusu Maumau. Wakati mwingine nilimfuata hadi kwenye mikahawa ya uchwarauchwara kule kijijini kwa lengo la kusoma gazeti la Taifa Leo, yeye akidhania kuwa hamu yangu ni chai na andazi ambazo ziliuzwa kwa sh.10 pekee, kumbe mwito mkuu ulikuwa maandishi. Nilipenda vitabu na magazeti kweli. Nikilala ama kwenda shambani sikosi kitabu. Tangu hapo nikatamani kuwa mwandishi.

Nilipatana na Mhesh. Gabrieli nilipokuwa mwanafuzi katika chuo kikuu cha Masinde Muliro mwaka wa 2014. Mlikuwa na kongamano la vijana kule Kakamega ambalo mgeni wa heshima katika siku hiyo alikuwa Prof. Ken Walibora (sifai kumtanguliza bingwa huyu). Kwa wakati ule nilikuwa nimejiandaa kuwakabidhi wawili hawa muswada niliokuwa nao- fuata ndoto yako. WGGK ilikuwa inaanza kukita mizizi mle chuoni chini ya mwakilishi, Frank Omondi. Nilipomwomba Mhesh. Gabrieli nafasi ya kuzungumza naye hakunipinga. Basi nikamfungulia roho naye akawa tayari kunisikiliza kwa ahadi kuwa angenipatia jawabu

baada ya muswada wangu kuhaririwa. Kwa upande mwingine nakumbuka nilivyomfuata Prof. Ken hadi hadi kwa lango la gari lake alipokuwa akiondoka. Mvua iliyokuwa ikinyesha haikutupatia muda mwingi pamoja japo aliniahidi kunipatia jibu baada ya siku fulani. Nami nikatulia tuli na kuingoja siku yangu, siku ambayo ningepitishwa kuwa mwandishi!

Baada ya takribani miezi mitatu Mhesh. Gabrieli aliniarifu kuwa mhariri wangu, Winnie Ogenche, alikuwa ameukataa muswada wangu kwa misingi tofauti ambayo nilipata ripoti yake. Moyo wangu karibu utamauke kwa kufifia kwa ndoto yangu. Niliona kuwa lengo la kuwa mwandishi lilikuwa fikira tu ambayo haikuwa na msingi wowote kwangu na kudhania kuwa ningechapishwa ni jambo ambalo sikuridhiwa maishani. Mojawapo ya maswala niliyofaa kurekebisha ilikuwa mada ya muswada. Katika hali hii ya kutamauka binti mmoja rafiki yangu alinishawishi kuendelea na ndoto yangu kwa kunikabidhi jezi iliyoandikwa “Just do it.” Tangu hapo nikaamua ima fa ima, sikosi kukazana hadi nichapishwe. Isitoshe, siwasahau afisa mtendaji, WGGK na kiongozi wa wanafunzi MMUST, Daudi Kemboi kwa kuniamini. Basi nikajikita katika utafiti na kujinyima kwa lengo la kuurekebisha muswada, hamu kuu ikiwa kuwapa motisha wanaokata tamaa maishani pamoja na watu walio na ndoto kubwa maishani.

Ipo Siku ni riwaya ya kipekee inayounganisha maudhui mbalimbali kote duniani ili kueleza maswala ibuka kwa njia ya burudani na kuelimisha. Utapatana na wahusika wakuu, Jabali na Bahati, ambao japo kila hali inaenda kinyume na matarajio yao wawili hao hawafi moyo. Kwao, changamoto ni nafasi murua ya kupaa angani kama ndege. Ufisadi na wivu ni maudhui mengine yaliyotajwa kwa kiwango fulani. Ni kitabu kinachoendelea kujikita mizizi hapa nchini. Nina imani kuwa siku moja kitavuka mipaka ya Kenya-ipo siku. Hakika, bila Mhesh. Gabrieli na familia ya WGGK safari hii haingekamilika. Huyu bwana alikuwa mgeni kwangu kabisa ila kujitolea kwake ungedhani tulikuwa ndugu wa tumbo moja! Ni mengi aliyonifanyia ambayo kuyasahau nitakuwa mtovu wa nidhamu na mkosa wa shukrani.

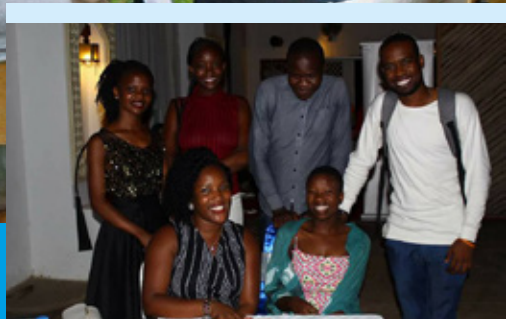
Kumbe kuandika kitabu kunahitaji kujiamini, nidhamu ya wakati, kuzungukwa na marafiki wanaoamini bidii yako (huenda akuwe mmoja ila mwamini tu), na kutanguliza imani mbele. Bila shaka hakuna lisilowezekana. Wanaotea siku hakika siku yao inafika. Asiyeotea siku hana siku. Ipo Siku. Inshallah!

Solomon Muya ndiye Mwandishi wa ‘Riwaya ya Ipo Siku ambayo imechapishwa na Writers Guild Kenya

FROM THE INK OF OUR WRITERS



Our Writers Undergoing a Practical Mentorship Session



MY PEN LAND

My farmer, Bwana Gabriel Dinda, I trusted you with my passion for writing as a seed, trusting you were fertile of other writers who would ensure great growth of this seed.

For a long time I stayed underground, scared of the scorching sun, then came the winds. I almost succumbed to the thought of storms, but this didn't beat the nightmare of weeding, where some plants are uprooted by mistake or for spacing. And so I thought it safe to remain under.

It wasn't long, I felt the roots of many extending my side, I knew it was time to shoot, and so I did, the beauty of passion for ink surrounding me made my heart leap with zeal.

I'm not yet a big tree, but I trust you to hold my roots even when I am too old.

I'm grateful my penny land, Writers Guild Kenya.
Happy 4th Anniversary to every ink soul on this land.

Hildah Imali, Writer and Poet based in Kakamega, Kenya

THE JOURNEY BEGAN...

Darkness had spread throughout,
Lights started going out,
With fear our hearts started to shout,
We began the journey to enlighten.

Books, papers, pens had gone,
Illiteracy was to be the next zone,
Our hearts were ripped and torn,
The journey of enlightening began.

Four years now we smile bright,
We are glad to see a bright sight,
The world has got back its light,
The journey continues to enlighten.

Mr Dinda, the Founder of the journey,
Showed us to plant literature tree,
From ignorance is the world free,
Thank you for taking us through the journey.

We do pray for the longer life,
Of the journey as we strive,
Hoping to reach the destination,
As the journey has already begun.

By: Imran Mohamed Shakeel, Mombasa



Our Writers enjoying a Team Building Exercise after a Successful Writers Bootcamp

HOME OF WRITERS; WHERE THE LOST ARE TRULY WELCOME

By Dismas Okombo

On this Friday afternoon of February, Kano's over-head sun was mercilessly hot. Lost in the plains, the load was heavy on the lad's tired tender shoulders but he did not want to put it down because it prevented the sun's rays from hitting most parts of his body directly. The dark clay soil, now hot, dry and cracked burnt and bruised his bare feet and his throat thirsted for cold water. He slowly shifted the bag of rice seeds to his left shoulder, and lifting his head up, he looked ahead with the hope of finally finding a shade to rest for a while. However, like the five kilometers already behind him, there was not a single tree in sight. The dusty road was deserted, and on both sides, on the horizons, were fields of rice ripe for harvest. He gently sighed and then trudged on, hoping for a shade.

Long before I could hold a pen properly, I fell in love with writing. It was the most exciting discovery. Thereafter, almost all the time I kept on writing, sometimes into the silence of the night. I wrote about the things that made sense to me and the things that did not, until nothing made sense anymore. Then I started struggling to write. I was worried that more prolific writers than me had already tackled every subject under the universe. I became afraid of making mistakes. I became afraid of missing a rhyme in the poem and so I compromised on the subject. I became afraid of writing a shoddy story and so I opt not to try. With time, the excitement waned, and the grips on my pen loosen. Soon after, like our lad above, I was lost, thirsty and tired, and in need of rest. Or rescue?

Somehow, I figured that I had to keep going. Although the hope of ever reaching my destination was slowly fading, I kept pressing on. Although many times I encountered setbacks, I still willed myself to write even just one more word. Nevertheless, despite my best efforts to survive, it was clear that I could not manage to overcome the numerous challenges that come with maintaining a healthy writing habit.

I was about to put my last full stop when I was introduced to Writers Guild Kenya. The home of writers; where the lost are truly welcomed, the disturbed and the broken find hope. Patiently, through their thoughtful activities, they revived my writing passion. With genuine concern, they held my hands as I grew. When it was necessary, and at the appropriate moments, they allowed me to explore and discover my own voice. It has been a journey of hope, and now through this lovely home, my hopes of being the Writer I wished to be has been rejuvenated. The journey of always meeting and sharing experiences with other people is simply amazing.

The sun was still fierce and no shade in sight yet. The lad could not go any further. He went on the side of the road, where there were some grass and placed the bag of rice seeds down. He was glad that the load was off his shoulder, but the sun's rays, now hitting him directly, were uncomfortably burning hot. He reached for the bag to lift it back to his shoulders, when from a distance he heard the engine rumble. His hopes shot high. Finally, he will find his way home and in a matter of time, his seeds will one day be ripe fields of rice ready for harvest.

Dismas Okombo is an Affiliate Writer based in Nairobi Kenya. Email; poetdismas@gmail.com



RE: MY LOVE FOR YOU

Dear Writers Guild Kenya,

Every day with you has been a blessing. I still thank you because you said YES to me. You have and still are my light (daw'). I was thinking about this anniversary the other day and how much of an impact you have been to other writers, not to mention the enormous opportunities you have offered to the WGK family; not forgetting the family that we have built together over the years. The truth is, I cannot imagine my life outside this family, and out of our collective smile. You have been there for me for everything, literally. You are surely my inspiration and we ought to be proud and celebrate together.

I still feel like a child in this lovely home. It is just hard to believe you picked and believed in me. I sometimes punch myself to make sure I am not living a fantasy. Happy Anniversary my love (Writers Guild Kenya). I love you so much and I have much more love to give through the years.

With all my love,

Yours forever,

Rehema Chai, Nairobi Kenya.



ONE FULL PROMISE...

With only 4 years to your name, you have managed to change so much in masses.

You are so young yet full of wisdom and capability. The strong, supportive community you have built has grown to accommodate many every time. Soon, it will be a state!

On learning of you, I was scared. Hesitant even. Nevertheless, something within you especially the able leadership convinced me that there was nothing to lose in trying.

Let's keep trying, a mantra uttered over and over until it sinks.

Whenever one is at the verge of losing inspiration, you remember to rise and try. All those who do great things began by simply trying.

For the numerous opportunities I have found within and through you, I thank you.

For the growth that has been brought with your guidance, I am grateful.

For the family I have found in fellow members, I adore you.

May you see many more years ahead with immense flooding of writers and creatives. Keep ameliorating. Happy 4th anniversary, Writers Guild Kenya!

You are dearly loved.

Rehema Zuberi

WRITERS GUILD KENYA: HOPE IN ACTION

By Dennis Odeny

Writing, reading, all a sign of learning
 Learning, unlearning, all a sign of growth
 Dying and growing, all a sign of progress
 Progress, in action, is a sign of hope
 Hope, can be elusive, if not seen by the eyes
 Everyday, on several platforms, we see it
 In the eyes of new authors, jolly contributors,
 Emerging professionals, and all those who, like me,
 Wake up to say, "it's indeed possible!"
 Just because an idea trusted its wings and flew
 To write the name "Writers Guild Kenya" in bold upon
 the skies

And to you, who reads, and learns, and grows,
 This is your time, for in being here, you are home
 The home of writers, dreamers, storytellers,
 Those who believe in the beauty of their dreams
 And are willing to take a step to make a difference
 Thank you family, Thank to you, who reads this
 For, it is because of you, that I am!
 Hope in Action!

Dennis Odeny is the author of 'Hey, You!'



WHERE LOVE LIVES...

By Marie Rose Nyambura

Passion and more passion, with direction and guidance not,
 The Holy Book does say,
 Will sweep the young from their feet,
 To fall in a pit and re-awaken not.
 As mother giraffe watches the kid make the first attempts to run,
 Has Writers Guild been to all its young artists;
 Apprenticing the pen lovers to make life from ink and pad
 The story tellers to saying for the world to hear and even more to give an open ear to them who cry
 The image builders to an even deeper sense of art, a life full of love for life,
 All the while, creating a life and a moment even cool reason would comprehend not
 We are stronger now, arms against the waves of undirected passions to a life of purpose
 And the fire burns on as in the wilderness in the day of reckon.



THE JOURNEY OF HOPE

By Franck Omondi

When I look back at what Writers Guild Kenya has achieved for the past four years, such are the moments when I receive inspiration, and to which I retreat to reflections and all I get is peace. It makes me happy. What makes me even happier is seeing how we continue to grow, serving God and humanity.

I became part of Writers Guild Kenya in 2015, met Gabriel physically at a summit in USIU in November; and on 4th March, 2016, we launched the MMUST Chapter. We launched the Moi Chapter the next day. I have been home ever since, at peace, seeing not only my own but also other people grow through writing. You can't forget all the good things Writers Guild Kenya introduced us to, and brought to our tables. I remember leading a group of people who were struggling first to come together as a team, then to write, and to getting published, or even the credit for what they were doing. This was a group of writers, hungry writers seeking not only attention, and not validation, but everything they got at the Writers Guild of Kenya. Many have since been published, continue to grow, and they own the Writers Guild.

I relive every memory of my period in MMUST leading that team, and ensuring that they got home.

(Time caught up with me) in MMUST, and finally I was physically home, at the I&M building where we launched our first anthology - Through the Journey of Hope. Then we moved to ICEA building, and to the National museum. We keep moving, and all this while, we have continued to grow, with the book launches coming week after week.

It is just wondrous how this journey of hope has turned out to be, and whenever I look around me, there is always something to celebrate about the

Writers Guild Kenya. There is reason enough to keep hoping for the best, to keep walking through this journey of hope, and to keep living our dream, and once you get the taste of what it is like, you begin receiving the kind of inspiration that will keep you going.

With Writers Guild, it gets so enjoyable to write, so pleasurable to read, and every moment when you see 'The Beast' and others of our own perform, that is when you get so moved, you cry and laugh for the joy, and the humor, and embrace every moment. It has been so rewarding being part of this dream, this journey of hope, and I just can't say enough.

We continue to grow.



LOST BUT FOUND

Sometimes lost dreams need another lost dream to find their way home.

Hello there,

Happy birthday Writers' Guild Kenya! Sometimes in the middle of the deserts, right where our east seems to be real west and north looks everything like south, all we need is another lost soul deep inside the countless sand dunes. The feeling of finding another is what I had after finding this group.

It's been an amazing journey with a meaning in every word. With the world growing too busy, inspiration is a favour left for angels. Kenya is lucky to have you.

I pray the good Lord keep seeing everyone through for this and many more generations to come.

Cheers to this and many more!

Elishama Okungu, Nairobi Kenya

THE FARM WHERE WE GROW: VINKY

In a certain farm,
I was a seed,
that had just been broadcasted with no idea on
which soil I would fall on.
Sandy soil, clay soil or fertile soil.
I had no idea.
I could not even guess.
And so I was afraid.
Terrified.

For within few weeks I was expected to show signs that I had fallen on the soil ready to start the growing process.

Caring less which soil I fell on.

Caring less which soil was best for me to grow on.

All they wanted were the results.

I was expected to show that I had adapted to the weather conditions as well as the acidity of the soil.

Within a month I had no signs to show.

Not even one single sign.

Poor me.

So the farmer forgot about me.

Manured all the other seeds that gave him the future vision of his farm.

Applied fertilizers to other seedlings apart from me.

The farmer got angry with my slow growth rate.

He plucked me out of his farm and threw me away together with the weeds.

But then I fell on another soil after being plucked out.

I did not know the soil for I had not encountered it before,

But I could tell it was different.

The soil was well prepared before,

to receive the seeds.

We could dance, smile, share and even write about our past together.

We became a family.

We encouraged each other.

We visited slow growing seeds and gave them hope.

Ignited passion that made them grow.

We grew.

And grew.

Until farmers from far could visit this soil, ask for permissions to have some of us grafted so they could mate us with seeds in their farms.

In this soil I found a home.

A family.

In this soil my future as a growing seed is guaranteed.

I have been manured.

Fertilizers have been applied on me.

I have been given all the attention.
Space to grow.
And no competition for end results.
Each seed has its own pace and time.
When a seed bears fruits, we all celebrate the fruits.
This soil is WRITERS GUILD KENYA.
It's the soil I fell on.
Its grows seeds, seedlings and fruits.

Happy birthday WRITERS GUILD KENYA.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FELLOW SEEDS AS WE KEEP
GROWING TO ONE DAY FEED THIS SOIL WHEN IT
AGES.

Vinky254.

WRITERS GUILD KENYA IS WHERE THE HEART IS

By ESTHER ZHIGE

"Welcome home my friend", Gabriel Dinda said to me
in November 2017.

And there I was part of a huge and awesome family.
With doubts of fitting in, I still plunged in.

Then came a time I had been waiting for, Writers Guild
was officially launched in Mombasa in 2018. I was
greatly excited to meet Vera Omwocha.

Being part of Writers Guild has meant a lot to me. I
have interacted with people I so much admired. I have
grown; I am not where I want to go but I am certainly
not where I used to be.

When disappointments set in along the way, when
I wrote pieces that weren't as good, Writers Guild
offered me hope.

Slogans like "let's keep trying", "we will do it together"
have kept us going.

Being a Camp Chief has humbled me, way more than I
ever thought. It has taught me patience and persistence.
I learnt and I am learning a lot. Vera Omwocha and
Gabriel Dinda; you two have been a blessing in my life.
And so has Joy Ruguru.

Even as we blow the four candles, I pray for nothing
more than more love, more growth, more strength,
more abundance.

I couldn't have been in a better home.

Happy 4th Anniversary.

Cheers!

Esther Zighe



A LETTER TO MY LOVE

By HELLEN SHIKANDA

For my darling family,
Writers Guild Kenya (WGK)

Your daughter H.E She_Kanda here, first of all, allow me
to break the rules of letter writing. I hereby formulate
my own rule, this is not a friendly letter neither is it an
official one. It is something in between, or both...eeeh,
just ride along.

My lovely WGK, I kid you not; you are the answered
prayer that made my knee this dark and my hand
this long, depending on your colour vision and length
determination, respectively. Oooh, my living testimony,
remember how we met? Or you feel old already?

I met you three years ago through our loving dad,
Gabriel. My friends Ajiambo, Dekker and Francis had
told me about this writers' organization but I didn't
really know how and where people register to become
members. I used to think that you were solely for K.U
students and WGK was just to make you look classy.

One time, your founder, the C.E.O himself, graced an
occasion as one of the guest speakers during a career
day at Moi University. I was in first year, a graduated
first year because it was during my second semester.
The only superpower I had and still possess, made
two of my friends accompany me to the hall where
the career day was to be conducted. I'm that good at
convincing people to attend important stuff. My story's

just about to come to an end, don't mind my too-much-information, it's what courageous people, those that fear no eye staring blankly at them call anecdotes, I'm too shy to say this in front of 200 people, so let me keep hiding behind this screen and press the keyboard.

So my friends and I took the front seats at the hall. As usual, dad Gabriel had arrived in time. He was probably wondering what he would tell us. He is one of those courageous chaps I was telling you about, so maybe, he was thinking of an anecdote to leave us awed. He couldn't find one, methinks, (don't get it over your head dad). He stood and came to say hi, to us, just the three of us. Then, I didn't even know who he was but I just kept my cool. He asked us our names and told us to write down what challenges we face as writers, then gave us his card. That was a sign mama, that I had to be part of you, WGK. Tell you what, his entire presentation was based on what we had written plus other information he had researched on before he met us. Allow me swank a little bit, he even mentioned our names and we felt great, you know? It is after the tête-à-tête session with Gabriel after the Career talk that I opened a blog which I am afraid, died an inexplicable death exactly 2 years ago. But, there is hope in resurrection, of my blog. Smile because I am done, not because I have nothing to tell you but because I understand how it feels like to be talking (read writing) on something not everyone relates to. To where we all relate,

Thank you WGK for believing in me.

It is because of you that I held the first ever chairpersonship position in my life.

Thank to Writer's Guild, Moi University Chapter.

Because of WGK's invitation, I talked to university students at MMUST, I was only 18 and shy.

I even shook hands with an international guest who, together with Gabriel and Moi University writers crowned that day. Adedayo Thomas, bless your soul.

And when I got the chance to attend the Ekklessia in the city under the sun, the experience was amazing.

The one workshop I attended at John Kaheni's residence was heavenly.

You know my love for French and guess who was in the building, Monsieur Allan Aringo (read Akhingo).

You even celebrate my birthdays the most epic way, wishes from writers are worth a billion dollar.

To crown it all, I now have an added list of friends who became family. And because you turn 4 today, I'm afraid, I never want to see you toothless, because gaps are a sign of weakness, cluelessness, and laziness.

May this fourth year be the beginning of the legacy we all want to see 100 years to come.

Happy birthday my love, WGK.

Xoxo, H. for Hellen E for Emerentiana, She, because I am a She_Kanda. Bless your loving soul.

From Wr. H.E She_Kanda.

(Hellen Shikanda is one of the Pioneer Chairperson of Writers Guild Kenya, Moi University Chapter)



Anniversary *Celebrations*

Congratulations

Writers Guild @ 4



WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

*They served and passed through this Journey of Hope;
and through it, they realized themselves.*





BRIAN NYAGOL: THROUGH HIS HANDS, WE STARTED OFF

Writers Guild was formed from the deepest of necessity in our society. It was backed by passionate people who offered their priceless time to help young writers turn their passion into satisfaction. One of the biggest lessons still vivid to me is that a small organization must not have money for it to succeed, but it must have people, a team; passionate, relentless, selfless and industrious people who hold tight onto its vision.

This is the kind of team that was built by Gabriel Dinda, and that is why to this day, Writers Guild Kenya is still empowering, educating, promoting and building young passionate writers. I look back to it with great reverence, having met people, picked lessons and grown immensely under it. The journey of hope indeed."

Brian Nyagol was the ICT Director of Writers Guild Kenya from inception until 2017. To date he remains a Consultant and a key Partner to Writers Guild Kenya. He now works at Davis and Shirtliff.



Oduory Okado: THE FATHER OF COCKTAIL 'PARTIES

They say life is all that you get; and with love, the harder you get,

That love is a thing of fashion; but when you dance you feel the passion,

So, when life was dark the love was pink; when I picked my bags dragged them in ink,

When I trained my mind to run from girls; in you Writers' Guild I found my pals,

To mould my skills, build my pots; you flattened my hills, to paste my thoughts.

You held my hand,
 Rubbed me through the sand,
 Taught me to stand,
 One day to join the band,
 But who would have thought,
 I'd wish you a happy 4th!
 A happy anniversary!
 You got me out of misery.

Oduory Okado, served in Writers Guild Kenya as the head of Intervarsity Passion Cocktail 'Parties' between 2015-2016. Within this time, he led a 'revolution' visiting 13 Universities and inspiring 6,000 students to take up their passion seriously. Okado is currently a Statistical Programmer at Phastar



DEKKER WILLIAM: THE GENIUS WHO BELIEVED IN US

Redbull and persistence, the perfect cocktail!

Memoires by William Dekker

Seated at the left end of the last row of Matunda Bus, I'm woken by cold water and a brush scrub around my nose. The time is 3.47am and most of the buses at Machakos bus stop are undergoing cleaning in readiness for the next upcountry trip. It's been 20 minutes since the bus arrived from Eldoret and the touts are not shy of harassing the last bunch of passengers to alight. However cold, risky and insecure the place was, a Machakos bound Matunda Bus was my only option then – brethren when you survive off HELB, there's lot of financial choices you must make. With a thorough bargain, Ksh.550 would get you a backbench seat on an old, overloaded, stuffy bus outbound to Nairobi (saving you Ksh.150). WG Eldoret branch here we come!

Long story short, the hustle was to get to KCA University for the 3rd Edition of InterVarsity Cocktail Party. Brethren, you see, in Kesses (Moi University Main Campus), we never have cocktail parties, the best would be tea parties (insoluble grade 7 sieved coffee along with home baked doughnuts). Cocktail in the city was big, I travelled for it!

Vividly, I recall the events of Friday, May 22nd, 2015; young enthusiastic minds, filled with too many expectations (I dare say too much). Well, Writers Guild was just in its heydays and everyone wanted to be part of the group, to be involved and more importantly to reap from it; authors, artists, thespians, models, cooks and caterers, engineers, photographers, publishers, mathematicians, journalists, theologists, economists, dancers, guitarists, pessimists, optimists and loyalists... for once we found a home that accommodated everyone and anyone. And that was the fun of it! It was a cocktail of passions.

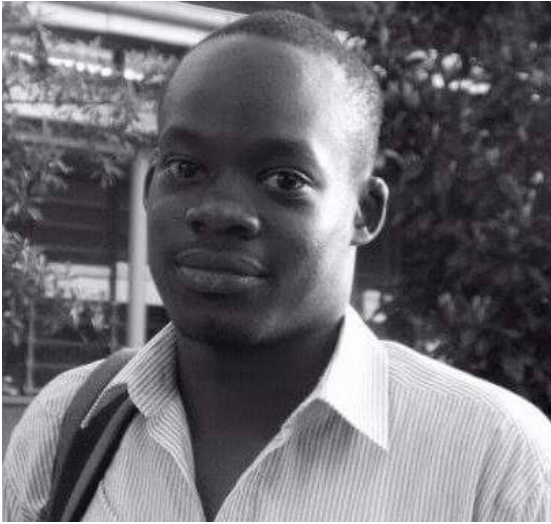
We tried things, we learnt things, we experienced things! The passion cocktail party, just like every Writers Guild Kenya gathering, presented an ideal opportunity to hear the ambitions of fellow peers, share in their dreams and fears (of course besides drinking 8 cans of redbull in under two hours). As unique as they were, the moments stirred passion and visions; some of which we gradually endeavor to achieve.

Indeed, "there is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." To date, confidently confessing, I owe my career to the little lessons I reaped out of Writers Guild; enthusiasm, endurance and persistence moves you further than experience. Sometimes it doesn't matter how many people drop out of a good idea, it takes the commitment of a few who believe in the idea to actualize it.

And so, as we reflect on the progress made over the last four years, it is prudent that we internalize the words of Calvin Coolidge, "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Long live Writers Guild Kenya!
Tunataka cocktail na Redbull!

Dekker William served at Writers Guild Kenya in different Capacities such as Associate Editor, Chief Editor and IT Director. He is now a Strategic Communicator at Impact Research.



MEMORIES THAT NEVER END...

By Denis Okova (Dr)

I was there when Writers Guild Kenya was born. I can say this the whole day with pride and confidence (and a little arrogance). It all started in a boardroom (BSSC) in Kenyatta University many years ago (before you were born). In this boardroom, few gamed up individuals armed with nothing but blind passion and a lot of English gathered. The plan: To see whether this fire burning inside us could be translated into writing. Great writing. In addition to our compulsive need to write, we had another thing in common; we all agreed that we didn't know what we were doing. It was like going to a date with no certain outcome. We would fumble until we got it right. And that is exactly what we did. We fumbled with a ton of ideas as long as the written art was the revolving piece. What you

see today as WG-Kenya is a culmination of 4 years of inexperience, hope, persistence and baptism by fire. In its infancy, I had the honour of working as the Guild's Editor. I took up the position with zero experience, of course. The only thing I had edited before was my copied assignment. The only item in my quiver was passion. I am glad it worked to my advantage. Through my position, I learnt that talent is nothing without discipline and strategy. The three are the holy trinity of success.

I owe an infinite debt of gratitude to WG for teaching me that it's possible to pursue one's subject of study in campus but still sharpen your passions/talents. This way, otherwise non-existent passages were unlocked in addition to broadening my perspective within and without the realms of the written art. I am happy to be a lifetime member of this association.

WG is the lifeblood of society when it comes to writing, publication, the reading culture, networking and leadership. It is my prayer in the near future WG will have its finger on the pulse of the writing universe.

Happy 4th Anniversary!

Cheers!

Dennis Okova served as both Associate Editor and Managing in the period between 2014 and 2016. Through his leadership, Writers Guild Kenya was able to successfully launch other Magazines such as Campanile Magazine and Career Focus Magazine in Kenyatta University. Dennis Okova is now a Doctor in Nairobi Kenya

THE ROCK THAT SUPPORTED OUR 'CHILDHOOD'

Writers "are the memory of (hu)mankind". Thus says the Malian Griot, Kouyaté, in an introduction to the famous epic, Sundiata.

It is a humbling to consider the wide gulf, the gaping chasm that defines the step taken in 2014, and the ideas penned and told in all manner of media and fora. By any account, Gabriel Dinda is a remarkable man, and his accomplishments are staggering and a little intimidating to the average human.

The reality of the creation and existence of Writers Guild Kenya was not something to scoff at or write off as a myth, it was part of his accurate, working, worldview of what writers having their own home feel. May your path be punctuated by breakthrough, and may the writers receive the abundance of favour from heavens. Happy fourth anniversary, Writers Guild Kenya!!

Sincerely,
Abuta Ogeto

(Abuta Ogeto served as both Associate and Chief Editor in Writers Guild Kenya for the period of 2014-2013. He lead different teams in accomplishing different Editorial Projects and mentored a number of Writers within the time. He remains one of the most valuable Mentors to our Writers. He is now a Farmer and a Writer)



WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE FUTURE?



2014

Writers Guild Kenya (WGK) is registered as a club in Kenyatta University. The name then is 'Writers Guild'.

WGK publishes two issues of its magazine All Senses Magazine (meant to create an engagement platform for writers).

WGK founds The Campanile Magazine (a Publication of Kenyatta University Students Council) and publishes Career Focus Magazine on behalf of Kenyatta University Career Office. These magazines, acted as the launch pad for our writers.

WGK wins award for 'Most Promising Entrepreneurial Venture by Africa Liberty Organization for Africa (Uganda).

Partners with VibeCampo and starts a Writers Club in Eldoret (based in Moi University).

Registers 72 Writers to its incubation Centre.

2015

Founder Gabriel Dinda wins Top 25 under 25 Entrepreneurship Award in Kenya

Initiates Passion Academy to offer specialized Training to writers.

Starts Writers club in Mombasa and Kakamega.

Recruits 213 Writers to the Writers Incubation.

Organizes 14 'Intervarsity Passion Cocktail Parties', in different locations in Kenya to create a platform to grow young people.

Writers Guild changes name to Writers Guild Kenya and is formally registered as a company (Incubation Centre and Publisher).

Salome Nthenya, one of the Writers in the academy wins a continental writing award.



2016

Moves offices to Nairobi town, I & M Building, for easy access.

Publishes 'Through the Journey of Hope', a poetry anthology by Writers Guild Kenya writers

Initiates and organizes 37 editions of Writers Ekklesia, a weekly writers' session meant to grow them.

Recruited 402 Writers to the Incubation Centre.

Offers content services to Strathmore, Kenyatta University, ACCA

Creates employment for 18 Writers on different projects.



2017

Partners with National Museums of Kenya to encourage writing and reading with a view preserving Kenya's heritage. The partnership enables Writers Ekklesia to be held in all Locations where there is a Museum in Kenya

Partners with John Kaheni Residence (our training Centre) to offer monthly Bootcamp to Writers.

Organizes 44 Writers Ekklesia sessions and 4 Writers Workshops/Bootcamps

Publishes 8 books by our authors (products of Incubation Centre).

Employs 33 Writers on different projects

Streamlines communications with Writers across Kenya.

Hit 10,000 following mark in Social Media

2018 (First 6 Months)

Publishes 10 More books.

Relaunches and Rebrands Writers Clubs in Mombasa, Nakuru and Kakamega.

The match to The Writers Centre keeps on.



FROM OUR DEAR PARTNERS



JOHN KAHENI RESIDENCE- PERFECT FRIENDS

There's a saying that goes, "Whatever you do, comes back to you" This has been well demonstrated by the partnership we have had with Writers Guild Kenya since their first seminar at JKR on 15th July 2017. Our relationship began when an introduction was made by two German students; Marxmillian and Sebastian who were conducting interviews with various social entrepreneurs for their Master's thesis project and Gabriel Dinda was on their list.

Through our partnership, our students have been able to go through Writers Guild Kenya seminars conducted at JKR through which some of our students have registered as members. It is through this very timely partnership that we were lucky to meet the Virtual Learning Solution Director, Ms. Ann Gatende who was one of the speakers for Writers Guild Kenya. We later partnered in the JKR Digital Empowerment Program. We have greatly expanded our networks through this partnership and friendship.

Writers Guild Kenya has provided a great platform for JKR students to network with their peers and exchange ideas.

Through Writers Guild Kenya, we have been able to receive donations from networks within the organization and for this and much more we say asante sana. Long live Writers Guild Kenya.

Our friendship is one which was meant to be, and so it will.

With love,

**Mary Wanjiku, Team Leader and Social Worker,
John Kaheni Residence.**



WRITERS GUILD KENYA IS GIVING A LITERARY LIFELINE TO THE YOUTH

By Nobert Oluoch Ndisio

One afternoon I received a phone call. A book publisher friend was in attendance of a book event in Machakos. In his company then, was a gentleman whom he wanted to introduce me to. This man, as it turned out, was Gabriel Dinda - the Founder of Writers Guild Kenya. Until the moment this call came through, I had only been aware of the existence of two guilds-The Hunters' Guild which novelist Chinua Achebe mentions in his novel, A Man of the People and the Kenya Editors' Guild. The curiosity, interest and zeal with which I listened to what Gabriel had to say was therefore justified and understandable. He gave me a summary of what the organization for which he worked dealt in. Besides, he expressly invited me to join them and grant them an opportunity to help me sharpen my writing skills. The rest, as has oftentimes been said, is history. It is this background that inspires my decision to pen a tribute in honour of Writers Guild, Kenya as she commemorates her fourth birthday. This is a development of monumental significance.

The mere mention of Writers Guild Kenya always elicits strong feelings in me. The Writers Guild Kenya reminds me of her Founder, Gabriel Dinda. The invocation of her name calls Poetess Rumona Apiyo Nanyinza and Poet Griffins Ndhine to my mind. She reminds me of the unmatched hospitality I received when one

mid- morning I walked into her then ICEA Building offices, creatively christened 'Home of Writers.' I still remember the tea, the laughter and the book talk. When I hear of the Writers Guild Kenya, I remember with nostalgia, the day Poet Adipo Sidang' recited his 'Love is a ring' poem before us at the Nairobi National Museum Terraces. I remember vividly the magical effect the blend of art and nature had on me. That day, I witnessed and savoured the taste of a poet and a stream humming in harmony.

Above all, the Writers Guild Kenya reminds me of the youth. She is an embodiment of how determined the youth are in their race against all the impediments that lie between them and their dreams. To an observer, she easily qualifies as a perfect illustration of how keen the youth are on their resolve to give their age and generation a new image and definition. In fact, it may interest you to know that the few names I cited are all young people at the prime of youth. It is for this reason that I invite you to join me in my appreciation of Writers Guild Kenya as an organization that has given the youth a lifeline.

Through propagation of literature, she cushions the young against temptations to subscribe to youth radicalisation cells. She dissuades the young from wasting away in gambling dens. The guild teaches the young to shun drugs and crime. She flaunts a microphone, a pen and a sheet of paper as the remedies and therapies for their tribulations occasioned by their age. In her own fashion, Writers Guild Kenya roots for literary public intellectualism among the youth. She offers a gateway through which none literary purists can access the comfort of the literary lawns which the academia has since the beginning of time held as a revered ground strictly reserved for purists.

The Writers Guild Kenya floats Art not only as a viable and valid source of entertainment but also as a solution to unemployment, which has over time morphed into a national menace.

Obviously driven by her cognisance of our waning reading culture, Writers Guild, Kenya has been running rigorous school literacy campaigns.

For all these reasons, I am within my every right to hail Writers Guild Kenya for living way ahead of her time. She envisions a future world in which reading will be a binding and supreme culture of the people. Through her mind's eye, Writers' Guild Kenya sees a future world in which people will fill theatre auditoriums, and not beer halls. The people will have to do this because

the absence of an audience might easily slay the Poet's muse. And an entire generation will have to embrace reading because without a vast readership, the author would be eternally dead. I urge Writers Guild, Kenya to stay the cause. I implore her to observe absolute fidelity to the arts because authorship without a readership is vanity.

I humbly propose a toast to all the achievements that Writers Guild Kenya has realised since her inception. Happy birthday, Writers Guild Kenya!

Ndisio Nobert is an Editor in a local book-publishing firm based in Nairobi



SO FAR, SO GOOD-KEEP SOARING

BEN SHIHOLO

My first encounter with Writers Guild Kenya was in July 2016 on invitation to speak about A Career in Editing. I didn't know I was to share the platform with Robert Burale – a recognisable name – who spoke about The Image of a Writer.

The exceptional response from the members fired me up. They not only radiated youth but were engrossed, inquisitive, cheerful, propping and above all rearing to go. I learnt that they don't call themselves writers for nothing; each member has written at least a poem,

FROM OUR DEAR PARTNERS

prose, short story, among others. Some are bloggers. And their presentations were engaging; both serious and humorous stuff!

For the first time, I doubted the correctness of the common derogative statement, (watoto wa siku hizi), children of nowadays, when speaking about our youth. That let me to research statistics; in 1969, Kenya's population was 11.9 million. In 2018, the UN estimates that Kenya has a population of 51 million. Given the adult mortality rate, I am older than at least 40 million Kenyans. Why this analysis?

First is to appreciate that our youth are doing something and what they need is space and time. Through the Writers Evening Lounge, (currently known as 'Ekklessia') knowledge and experiences are shared, networks made and a platform given for self-expression.

Second, my generation are no longer youth. By engaging with today's youth, we are able to hone what we call a Kenyan identity; culture, values and norms. Yes, generations do co-exist and no one should force their view on another; indeed, truth is not absolute. But, let us have the conversation.

Finally, as Writers Guild-Kenya, you are destined to go places. Be creative and faithful to the cause; work hard to realise our noble objectives. I salute you as you celebrate your 4th anniversary. Four-year-olds can run and express themselves eloquently. Now that you are done with Pre-Primary 2, I am sure you will as you enter Grade 1 of publishing!

Cheers!

BM SHIHOLO is a Publishing Consultant, and an Editorial Consultant with Writers Guild Kenya.
Email: bmsiholo@gmail.com

Congratulations Writers Guild Kenya on 4th Anniversary

By Paschal Manyuru.

It is with great pleasure to have been given a chance to participate in the celebrations that mark the 4th Anniversary of Writers Guild Kenya. Like many successful endeavors in the world, WGK was born out of very humble beginnings, four years ago. Through

the passion and hard work of its Founders, it has made amazing strides within the short time. Having had the opportunity to take part in a few activities of WGK and listen to the Leadership of the same, there is no doubt that the organization is in the right hands. The Leadership talks with great passion on the vision harbored for writers in Kenya and Africa through the activities of Writers Guild Kenya.

Many people never take a moment to think and reflect on what goes in to make a great book, which connects intimately with the reader. We all have something unique within us, which the world awaits-whether we realize it or not. The world is hungry to hear from us. When such information is shared to the world through writing, there is a possibility of the readers and the authors engaging more since reading stimulates critical thinking and constructive engagements between people.

A Platform like Writers Guild Kenya carries with it a great potential by providing, a mechanism for dialogue, training and critical thinking among writers of different disciplines. In the long run, this improves the quality of publishing, and demystifies the art of writing which has been misconstrued to be a preserve of the few. Improved writing and Publishing will generally put Kenya on a higher pedestal that is equivalent to the old and well-defined western style that has all been admired for such culture.

My interaction with WGK has left it clear to my mind that the team is passionate, focused and are charged to deliver on their mandate. Through WGK I foresee a center of Excellence where many people will realize their writing potential and through that, preserve the stories of the century in a manner that the next generation will benefit from our experiences.

May I once more, take this opportunity to congratulate WGK, its Founders and its current Leadership on celebration of this 4th Anniversary. You are moving in the right direction. Keep the fire burning

Paschal Manyuru is Leadership Mentor to Writers Guild Kenya. He guides and directs the team on best practices in Creating a Global Institution.



Writers Guild Kenya is a Future in waiting

By Mercy Muthoni.

From my initial conversation with Gabriel Dinda in 2017, I knew straight away that a good partnership had just started. Writers Guild Kenya and CLC Kenya share a common dream, to see writers grow to become a strong audible voice in our country, in our continent and world over.

I admire the passion Gabriel Dinda and the team has to that writers produce quality work and get relevant guidance in the process of their writing. It is not

enough to have a great transformative message – that message needs to meet acceptable standards to ensure consumption by the target market.

In my nine years experience, one of the tragedies in the book industry I have experienced, I would equate to having the perfect steak that has been cooked badly – what a waste! No one will ever know if it was a porterhouse, t-bone, top sirloin or the likes – it will never be consumed. On the other hand, even a not-so-perfect steak in the hands of a great chef, like Writers Guild Kenya, can turn out to be one of the greatest meats anyone has ever eaten.

I, and the team at CLC Kenya are proud of the milestones Writers Guild Kenya has attained. We celebrate with you four years of great contribution to the writing world and to the development of local content.

To the authors, this is a great era for local content to reach global limits. Let us be patient to attain excellence and professionalism. This will only be possible by getting experts' input, collaborations and partnerships. We are not competing against but complimenting each other.

Together Everyone Achieves More. We are a TEAM!

Muthoni Mercy is the Business Development Manager at CLC Kenya, a Christian Missions organization that runs a wholesale distribution of books and a Print-On-Demand program for local authors and international publishers. She has almost a decade's experience in the book industry.



The ACCA logo consists of the letters "ACCA" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
AWARDED TO

WRITERS GUILD-KENYA

FOR
PROVISION OF EXCELLENT BLOGGING
AND MARKETING SERVICES TO
ACCA KENYA

Between period of April 2016 to January,
2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Ochieng", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Geoffrey Ochieng
Head of ACCA Kenya



FRIENDSHIP MEANT TO BE

By CHRISTINE KOECH

As a pre-teen, I aspired to be a writer and I couldn't get enough of reading books about writers. Most of the books told of authors who took vacations – like to a cabin on the lake. While there, they typed away on their old typewriters and produced masterpieces that sold out and became bestsellers as soon as they were published.

But when I grew up and joined the real world, I realized that becoming a writer wasn't as easy as it sounded. Becoming a published writer was even harder.

I've had my own struggles in the writing world; the most difficult part was making the first step in the journey to getting published. Finding someone who wants to publish what you have written can prove impossible and that is why many writers abandon their first genre and turn to writing on demand; writing only what is commissioned or what sells.

I believe this is where Writers Guild Kenya comes in. Their vision is to create a home for writers and I believe that you are the truest version of yourself when you are at home.

Writers Guild Kenya is a place where writers get to be pushed to be better; where they can learn and grow and where they can even test their wings and finally get to fly.

To the members of Writers Guild Kenya, I say discover yourself and become the best version of yourself.

Christine Koech is the Editor of Eve Woman(Standard Newspaper Saturday Pull Out.) She has supported our Trainings and activities since 2015.

KEEP INSPIRING HOPE...

STEVE OBUOGO

The hope and dreams of every young African kid is not in the hands of the political class. The renewal of the hopes and dreams of young African kids lies with the few African compatriots going out of their way to live their dreams and while at it, tagging along other like-minded Africans. The few who at the face of impossibilities; never lose hope. The few who create paths in the uncharted waters. Who thought Writers Guild would live to its fourth birthday? The spirit of service, the warmth and the dedication of the Writers Guild is a beacon of hope to help shape opinions, light the way and bring to life all the amazing stories that everyone has to tell. This team of young passionate, relentless and unwavering writers have achieved so much within a short period. The passion is unmatched, their commitment unfathomed and their achievements unthinkable. The slogan of "let's keep trying" has helped shape my ideology and rebirthed my dreams of publishing a book. As you celebrate your 4th anniversary, I'd want to wish well, to share in your dreams and to remind the entire continent that they is hope. May your paths be lit, your lives be longer, may your cups never run dry, may your clothes be comfy and your coffee be strong. Happy anniversary!

From yours truly,

Steve Obuogo, Education Services Manager, ACCA Kenya.

(Steve was present at the very first meeting held by Writers Guild Kenya on 16th June, 2014. Through his inspiration and guidance in different areas, we have been able to make different steps)



WHO LEADS US TODAY?



Honesty,
Hope,
Love.
I am lucky to be part of the team.

Eunniah Mbabazi is the Coast Empowering Officer, incharge of Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale Counties.



My Love for My Home.

The first time I saw you,
I was tired and forlorn,
On the verge of giving up.
I fed on despair,
My writing breathed dust,
With gaping blanks,
Threatening to kill my soul fire.
I crawled my way home,
A place I didn't know existed.

I still shudder,
Everytime I remember my first day.
I want to cry,
Cry at the outburst of emotion I felt,
At the warmth I received.
Then the revelation,
Of a writing that rebuilds bridges,
Bridges so long burnt.
A writing so sincere,
Sincerity that rejuvenates the heart.

And today I look back,
Back at such beautiful a place,
A place I'm proud to call home,
Home to my reading and writing,
Home to my growth.
I look back with a smile,
For in Writers Guild Kenya
I have found humility,

THANK YOU FOR WALKING WITH ME

By Moses Sichach

To be gifted is to be different and it follows to be alone. In a world designed by innovators-the Steve Jobs and the Gates, driven by the inventors-the Teslas and the Einsteins, envisioned by the philosophers-the Marxes and The Smiths and Inspired by the writers in Me and You surely fights tooth and nail trying to see the creatives fail, just to see me and you conform to the status quo. But there is hope, as in all stories ending in victory, the battles are never won alone. Together as Writers Guild Kenya, we are the guiding hand, the true friends that cheer each other on, the family that lifts each other when we are down and I am proud to be a member and a team player in this journey of hope thus far. Thank you for walking with me .

Sichach is the Media and Digital Director at Writers Guild Kenya.



The Home where the Heart is

By Paullette Anyango.

There is a point in life when I used to wake up and I did not look forward to going to. I would however, push myself because working is a natural consequence of our living. At that time, I had a passion burning in my heart, a passion I was yearning to explore, a passion for service and to pen down words and a steaming hot passion to be around people like me. Around that time, I prayed a lot for God to show me a place I would accomplish all these. Soon, I Writers Guild Kenya. Since then I have been in love with my work, I sleep and wake up knowing I have a duty and mandate to keep on trying to go towards the direction God has for us. Each new day, I wake up with a desire to serve others, knowing very well that it is through service, that I realize myself.

A big thanks to Writers Guild Kenya, for believing in me and entrusting me to work with good people and lovely writers. As we celebrate the 4 years of nothing but love and family, words and more words, books and poems; four years of amazing members and team mates, I pray that may God, keep guiding us and showing us what he envisioned for Writers Guild Kenya. And God's work is what we shall always do. Happy Birthday Writers Guild Kenya, the home where I belong.

Paullette Anyango is the Clients and Administration Officer, at Writers Guild Kenya



Let's keep trying

By Gabriel Dinda

When we started Writers Guild Kenya 4 years ago, no one knew the extent to which we could go. However, one thing was clear, that this was not our work, but God's and we were only assigned to accomplish it. This was the only consolation which we had, regardless of our inexperience and being clearly 'unfit' to lead this journey. It was the case of Goliath and David. As it was starting, many people had ideas on how we could better do it, at heart, I always turned to God, because He is the one who charged us with the responsibility to lead this project, and only Him knows where he would wish that we end up. God has been our guide all through.

He encouraged us to embrace some tactics to keep going. One of such is trial and error. He told us never to shy away from trying things, which seemed impossible. With this inspiration, we have knocked at offices, where we were not welcome; we have written emails, which were not replied, and we have made calls, which prompted our numbers to be blocked. Even in the face of all these, we have learnt our lessons; sometimes, we have won and here we are, still on the journey.

With the above experience, we are always encouraged by our slogan: Let's keep trying. This has been the template answer to many challenges, steps and successes, which we have gone through.

Through God's inspiration, He has enabled us to travel this journey and celebrating 4 years of it, is teary. Only He, knows where He is taking us.

May You lead us to where you will, Lord.

Gabriel Dinda is the Founder and Chief Empowering Officer of Writers Guild Kenya

Where we all belong

By Belinda Mugambi.

I had heard of Writers Guild for a while but I only joined Months ago. I am new here but it feels like it has always been home. The thing about Writers Guild is that it is a home for everyone

I do not think there is a chance to feel out of place. In my short stay, I have met great people, very kind and welcoming hearts. I cannot underestimate the great learning experiences and challenges I have received courtesy of Writers Guild Kenya. I am better than I joined. Writing is not just writing for me but purposeful and fun.

I strongly believe Writers Guild has not seen its best days. It is destined for great success and impact.

Happy 4th Anniversary W GK to many more.

Belinda Mugambi is a Communications Intern at Writers Guild Kenya. She Pursues Bachelor of Corporate Communications at JKUAT



From Nakuru with Love

By Esther Wangui.

A 4th anniversary is something wonderful to celebrate but what makes a celebration worthwhile is the achievements through the walk towards the anniversary. The Nakuru Chapter of Writers Guild Kenya was launched on 9th March, 2018. The club writes under the blogspot name Nakuru Scribes. The team is made up of ten members managed by Wangui Esther (Mystic Venus).

Three months down the line, the team has made many milestones in creating a lovely incubation hub for writers in Nakuru region. We are happy to be led by our 'Big brother', Writers Guild Kenya and the steps that we have made together. We are grateful to be part of the journey towards growing writers in a wholistic manner. Through this, we aim to accomplish our vision of Serving and humanity through Writing and Reading. We are greatly encouraged by the Let's keep trying spirit that keeps us going amidst many challenges.

Till we accomplish God's will in full

With Love,
Wangui Esther.

Esther is the Nakuru Empowerment Officer in charge of Growing of Writers in the Region.



When Selflessness Meets Love

By Verah Omwocha

It might have been easier to say there are no platforms accommodative of young people in the sometimes forgotten writing world.

It might have been easier to pick the degree certificate and walk down streets hunting for what society had to offer them; but a group of young university students wished for more, hoped for more and decided to give more.

They created a home and filled up all the rooms with hope. And the hope oozed through the walls to the neighbors' and like a fire, spread through the country. Now this home has 'adopted' many children and fed them on hope and gifts of service. With a hand to hold them, young people craving to better the world through the pen are realising their dreams.

In this home; I'm learning selflessness and service, I'm clothed in love, I'm challenged, I'm celebrated, I'm growing. I would not rather be anywhere else.

When my eyes say, 'I don't know'; when my lips ask 'what do we do now?' when my cheeks curve in helplessness, the hope merchant says 'Let's keep trying'.

Because why, "We are here to serve".

And we are thankful for your support and for believing in us. God bless you.

Verah Omwocha is the Managing Editor and Publishing Manager of Writers Guild Kenya.



I found My Tribe

By Ruth Okello

45. With very many pieces of advice dished out on social media every new day, my favorite has always been, 'Find your tribe' I met the meme, grabbed it and ran after life believing in my little stashed knowledge. Then I met Writers Guild Kenya, and it all felt right. I found my people, my home, my family, my tribe. I have never looked back since.

Ruth Okello, Projects Manager, Writers Guild Kenya



Inspiration that Lasts

By Nickel Tari

46. Writers Guild Kenya has always inspired me. Right from the start, I fell in love with the ideology, that of

service to humanity and service to God. The team and the writers challenge me. I look at each one here and I see a great future ahead. I have never felt more at home.

Nickel Tari, Head of Writers Guild Kenya, Kakamega Chapter.



I Found Home

By Patricia Mollyne Mataga

One day, I was walking through the streets of Facebook aimlessly, not knowing where to vent, then I meet Writers Guild Kenya. So, I am informed that I can be a great writer. Well, how? I did not know that I could write until Writers Guild Kenya took me under its wings. Then I started flying. Looking back, I cannot believe that a single decision can have such a huge impact on someone. Through WGK, I have been transformed-literally. Thank you very much WGK for always being there for us. You found us naked, and you clothed us. You have given us tools, voices and most importantly, a platform. I have realized myself through you, and I know together, we can change the world. Your mantra, Let's keep trying, inspires me. It gives me a reason to walk past my troubles, a reason to try one more time. To my colleagues at Writers Guild Kenya, inspired by the Founder, Gabriel Dinda; right in our hands, is a world class Institution, one which God will use to change this world. Let's hold one and keep trying.

Patricia is the Chief Accountant of Writers Guild Kenya



What a Partner!

By Ken Munene.

Writers Guild Kenya has been a great partner. We have worked together in so many projects. The idea is not just being a partner, but being a genuine friend, who you can count on. When we were all weak, we lifted each other. When we were all strong, we supported weak partners. Collectively, we see in ourselves, more than just business partners, but sincere friends who can change the world. What more shall you ask for once you find such a friend?

Ken Munene is the Official Design Partner of Writers Guild Kenya



GREAT BOOKS THAT WE HAVE PUBLISHED



OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE LENS





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