
The Write Stuff

A quarterly publication of the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild

January 2010

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From the President's Pen

Happy New Year!

I trust everyone enjoyed our December meeting. All the various readings make one realize how diverse and talented our members can be. And the "goodies" were great too!

So we are off and running on another year of Writers' Guild activities. We have a great start on the next issue of *Well Versed*. Hat's off to Judy Stock who is spearheading that project. Soon it will be time to start the early process for a fall conference. In between are the monthly meetings with fine guest speakers and critique sessions.

Speaking of critiques, several members have expressed their need for more critique opportunities. We are going to stick with alternating a guest speaker one month and critiques the next, but have begun investigating additional critique sessions or on-line critiques. If you have any ideas along those lines please share with a board member or our critique specialist, Jim Coffman.

DUES ARE DUE, please bring them to the next meeting January 3rd. And you may notice as you enter Orr Street Studios we will be meeting in the central "lobby" part of the building. Orr Street, in an effort to increase revenue, has leased our meeting room to an artist. So we are going to be setting up in the central space and, as needed, can break up into critique groups by using different parts of the hall ways. I think it should work and the folks at Orr Street have agreed to let us hold off signing a new lease for a meeting or two to let us decide if we are comfortable with the new set up.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the coming year with our Missouri Writers' Guild chapter. We have a great new board and I am pleased to be working with them.

See you Sunday, January 3rd!

Larry Allen,
CCMWG President

Upcoming CCMWG Meetings

Mark Your Calendars and reserve these dates for the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild monthly meetings. **Meetings are from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Orr Street Studios.** (The CCMWG Board meets prior to CCMWG meetings; members are welcome to sit in on Board meetings.)

CCMWG meetings begin with a brief business meeting followed by a speaker or critique group. We alternate speakers with small group critiques for prose (short stories), poetry, non-fiction and novel. This format encourages writers to build on their strengths with respectful help from other writers.

January Meeting

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Speaker: Bridget Bufford on

Creating Characters with Archetypes

Bridget, a St. Louis native, now lives in mid-Missouri. She leads creative writing workshops, and offers writing classes through the Columbia Area Career Center. *Minus One: A Twelve Step Journey* (Haworth Press/Alice Street Editions) is her first novel; excerpts have been featured in *The Harrington Lesbian Literary Quarterly*, *Pillow Talk II*, *Body Check*, and *Writing Alone & With Others*. Bufford's poems and essays have appeared in several anthologies and journals.

February Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Critique meeting: Bring copies of your prose or poetry to share.

March Meeting

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Speaker: James Muench, of *Far West Enterprises*, on *The Art of the News Release*

For more CCMWG news, visit our web site:
<http://columbiawrites.coin.org/>

Writers' Conference

In 2010, the **Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)** will bring its annual conference and book fair to Denver, Colorado at the Hyatt Regency Denver & the Colorado Convention Center.

Conference dates are April 7-10, 2010 and registration is now open.

For more information, check their website:
<http://www.awpwriter.org/conference/2010wpcconf.php>

Our own CCMWG members, Jan and Jim Coffman, will be attending the conference, and Jim will be signing his new book at his editor's booth, along with 39 more of his editor's authors.

New Updates

The top three fastest growing publisher websites...

...are Guideposts.com, at #1, Ragan.com, and RealSimple.com, according to Folio Magazine.

Read more at

<http://www.foliomag.com/2009/guideposts-com-named-fastest-growing-publisher-web-site>



Top 10 Blogs for Writers

Want to know what other writers are reading? This site lists the top 10 blogs for writers. See if you know them, by checking the list at

<http://www.writingwhitepapers.com/blog/2009/09/21/top-10-blogs-for-writers-2009-winners/>

Noteworthy Stuff

Evelyn Aholt's poem *Winter's Charm* is a semi-finalist in a contest sponsored by Famous Poets.

Larry Allen's poem "Frank James-1912" will be published in *Main Street Rag* in the Spring or Summer 2010.

Jim Coffman has sold 29 poems to Pudding House Publications forming a chapbook, entitled, "Gravel Dust and Dreams." He was informed on December 13th that the book is now being printed. Since that submission and acceptance, he has submitted and has had accepted for publication, "Outside the Crowd," another chapbook, of 30 poems, an autobiographical sequel to his first book of narrative poems.

Jim suggests that other poets of CCMWG think seriously about looking to Pudding House for possible publication. Pudding House is nearly 30 years old, located in Columbus, OH, and is the largest "small literary press" in the nation. They publish around 150 chapbooks each year and keep 1,400 in print. For information, talk to Jim (573-356-3786). Also, check out their very informative web-site at www.puddinghouse.com

Linda Fisher was accepted into Stage 1 training for About.com's, a Guide for the Alzheimer's Disease Health Channel. During the 2-week training she submitted articles and blog posts to be critiqued and edited. After her work was reviewed, the associate editor of recruitment and training decided to advance her to Stage 2 training. In Stage 2, she will build a website using the articles that she wrote in Stage 1. Fisher is one of several applicants competing for the Guide position. The position pays a base salary and commission based on site traffic. About.com is part of The New York Times Company.

Debbie Parker had an article entitled "Zumba!" published in the November 2009 issue of the online newsletter, *Healing Talk: Educating people about health and wellness through energy healing, movement, complementary therapies and spirituality*. Read her article at:

<<http://www.integrativeenergysr/>>
www.IntegrativeEnergyServices.com<<http://www.integrativeenergyservices.com/>>

Of Interest

Sponsored by Sleuths' Ink: Write a 50,000-word Novel in 31 days

Are you up for a challenge to start the new year right? How about writing a novel – in 31 days. Sleuth's Ink, a writing group for mystery and suspense writers in the Ozarks, is inviting area writers to join them in Jano, which is similar to NaNo, except that it takes place in January. Jano is Sleuths' Ink's take on NaNo, the popular National Novel Writing Month held every November. They will adopt many of the same rules but will write during the month of January and are calling their special month "Jano."

Here are the rules:

- Write a 50,000-word novel in one month (31 days)
- This equals 1,613 words per day
- Don't take time for edits (just quick, simple corrections, if anything)
- You may plot or outline your novel in December
- You may start a biographical character sketch in December (think of characters' names, professions, traits, quirks, hobbies, family, pets, etc.)
- BUT there can be NO ACTUAL NOVEL WRITING UNTIL Jan. 1, 2010
- Start your coffee machines

Shirley McCann has set up a dedicated Yahoo group at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/janowriters/>

Please sign up if you wish to participate. Hope everyone joins in the fun. What a great way to kick off 2010. Happy writing, everyone. Check out the Sleuth's Ink website at: <http://www.sleuthsink.net/>

Virtual Book Tours

by Sylvia Forbes

Back in the "old days," a publisher would pay to send an author out to various bookstores to do book signings. Back then, people would line up to buy the book. These days, book signings are so common, the average number of books sold at a signing are 6, count 'em, and if that's the average, then there's LOTS of authors out there selling none at all at a signing to balance out those few best-selling authors selling zillions. For most writers, doing book signings at distant locations is just not cost effective.

So now, virtual book tours are the norm, with authors doing online chats, being guest bloggers, and using other online formats to tout their books. Read about some of the different ways to do a virtual book tours at <http://yodiwan.wordpress.com/2009/10/01/book-tours-for-the-21st-century/>.

New Members

Please welcome new member, **Jennifer Brandt!** Here is her brief bio:

I write mostly poetry, but would like to venture into fiction. I've been writing poetry since the third grade (that's when it was introduced to me) and I try to read about one or two poetry books a month. My favorite poems are about human nature, but I have a soft spot for any mention of geology, dinosaurs, or b movies.

I'm looking forward to two online publications in the next few months (*Opium* magazine and *The Poetry Warrior*) and two print magazines (*Breadscab Crumbs* and *The Ivy Review*). My favorite poetry book is *The Essential Rumi* translated by Coleman Barks (second is *J'Accuse* by Aharon Shabtai).

New FTC Blogging Rules May Affect Writers

The Federal Trade Commission approved new rules stating that bloggers promoting a product will have to disclose any relationship between that company and the blogger, such as if the blogger was paid or received any other type of compensation.

Read the article at Information Week, <http://www.informationweek.com/news/internet/web2.0/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=220301064>, which states that violators may be fined up to \$11,000.

Also read the article on the FTC website, <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/10/endortest.shtm>

A good analysis of the rules is at <http://palatepress.com/2009/10/the-ftc-bloggers-and-free-samples/>

Inspirational Stuff

"Little minds are interested in the extraordinary; great minds in the commonplace."
-Elbert Hubbard

"At some point, I believe one has to stop holding back for fear of alienating some imaginary reader or real relative or friend, and come out with personal truth"
-May Sarton

"Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."
-Stephen King

Wanted: Newsletter Items

Send information of interest to writers; awards, accomplishments, and publications for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor, Carol Buckels at cgb@centurytel.net with the subject line: **CCMWG Member News** by March 21st, 2010.

Improve your Writing at Four Local Workshops

We are fortunate to have many talented CCMWG members who are willing to share their talents to help us improve our writing.

Why not give yourself the gift of a writing workshop to start the new year right? Sign up today!

SELF PUBLISHING WORKSHOP, Saturday, January 9, 2010, in Fulton, Missouri

Considering publishing your memoir? Gathering recipes from all your relatives to put together in a family cookbook? Did you come across some diaries that you want to turn into a historical novel? Have a collection of your poems you'd like to make into a book? What about that children's fairy tale you made up, that your kids said was such a great story you should turn it into a book?

Sylvia Forbes will be teaching a workshop on **Self-Publishing** on Saturday, January 9, 2010, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the National Churchill Museum, 501 Westminster Avenue, in Fulton, Missouri.

"I'll cover best topics for self-publishing books, editing, what should be on the book cover, how to get back cover blurbs, how to get an ISBN number and why that is needed on the book, book design, how to choose and work with a printer, and marketing. I'll include a little on ebooks and explain when doing an ebook makes sense instead of print. And we'll also talk about the latest technology in self-publishing, the Espresso Book Machine. I'll also give you some great resources for more info on self-publishing."

Anyone interested in self-publishing is invited to attend. Sylvia has self-published five books, and has started her own publishing company, Snowflake Press, which publishes the *Bylines Writer's Desk Calendar*. She is also an award-winning freelance writer, with over 400 articles published.

Cost of the workshop is an incredible bargain at only \$5. To register, call the Museum at 573-592-6242, or email Mandy Plybon, Education Coordinator, at Mandy.Plybon@churchillmemorial.org.

I CAN (Complete A Novel) Workshop by Sensible Muse Workshops, March 2010

This eight-month-long writing boot camp is designed to take a writer through the process of completing a polished first draft. Learn the skills and habits that take a writer from story idea to completed novel. Learn how to:

1. Call on your muse.
2. Foster an environment that will keep you writing.
3. Find the time.
4. Flesh out the work as you go so as to avoid huge rewrites later.
5. Work through common mistakes and roadblocks.
6. Develop a writing system that keeps the work as effortless as possible.
7. Write a scene/chapter/idea in one hour or less.
8. Get the most out of readers.

Where? The monthly meetings will be held at the home of the instructor, Chloe Pival.

Schedule: The group will meet the first Sunday of each month starting in March from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to share their progress, and learn new skills to help them toward their goal. In addition, two 1-2 hour weekday evening writing intensive sessions will help the writer to focus specifically on the work at hand.

Who? 6-7 individuals interested in novel writing. The number of openings is small in order to tailor resources to unique individual challenges. We will start by priming the pump, with creativity exercises so no one need have a novel concept in mind. Having a concept doesn't preclude you from the workshop. This could be your first novel, it could be your fourth; the purpose is to complete a novel in 2010, worthy of submission and in the process discover the means of improving your writing techniques as well as overcoming your individual challenges.

Why? As with my Sensible Muse clients, many people know they want to write a novel, but become frustrated with the actual process for a variety of reasons. They lack skill, time, resources, and sometimes inspiration. Not many art forms are more enigmatic than writing. Why? Because there are standards, basics, and techniques defined for other art forms. Almost anyone can write, right? Sure, we learn to spell, punctuate, and put our thesis statements in the correct place in school. This sometimes makes the art form more frustrating, because it is about more... No one teaches a painter the color wheel, gives him brushes, and sends him out to paint. He takes sketch 101, art history, medium, perspective and form classes, etc. He is shown how to capture light, depth, clean his brushes and sometimes how to choose his subject matter.

What? We will start with a 2½-hour workshop each month addressing the phases of a novel. I will provide exercises, techniques, resources, and inspiration toward the development of a novel. Some techniques may be different and unusual but will be chosen based on the challenges of the group, both as a collective and the individuals within the group. In addition, I will schedule writing sessions where individuals will meet to draw upon the energy of writing en mass, as well as shared time to put the word on the page. I will also provide handouts with tools and techniques to use through any given phase.

How? We will function as a supportive group, sharing our challenges, so that all will benefit from the tools described. I will send out an initial questionnaire to find out more about the individual authors involved, their unique challenges, and backgrounds, so the workshop can address issues pertinent to their novel.

How Much? The workshop is \$200 payable in \$25 installments at the beginning of each monthly meeting. Anyone paid in full by the first meeting may take \$25 off of the total cost of the workshop (\$175). Due to overwhelming response, available slots will be filled based on interest, group dynamic and first response.

How to Register? If after reading the above, you find it to be just the shot in the arm your writing needs, please send your name, phone, e-mail and weekday evening meeting time preference to chloie@socket.net <<mailto:chloie@socket.net>> subject line: I CAN Please include a brief description of yourself as well as your writing history, interests, and style. Include the name of your favorite books/writers. If you are one of the participants, you will receive an e-mail update and questionnaire soon.

CREATIVE WRITING OF COLUMBIA PRESENTS THE AMHERST WRITERS & ARTISTS METHOD

This workshop is open to anyone with a desire to write; it is particularly well-suited for beginning writers, those who have not written in some time, and writers seeking to change styles/genre (i.e. business writers, academics, journalists).

- Write in response to a variety of exercises
 - Identify strengths in your writing
 - Build trust in your unique voice
 - Share skills in a supportive setting
- 8 week sessions \$120; scholarships available

Friday mornings 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

1/8/2010 -- 2/26/2010

Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 9:30 pm

1/6/2010 -- 2/24/2010

CREATIVE WRITING OF COLUMBIA PRESENTS THE NEXT LEVEL

This workshop is particularly well-suited for creative writers involved in ongoing projects: short stories, novels, collections. Anyone with a desire to write is welcome.

- Work on your memoir, novel, essays, or poetry
- Exchange resources on writing and publishing
- Identify your writing strengths
- Receive critique in a supportive setting
- Network with published writers

Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:30 pm

1/5/2010 -- 2/23/2010

8 Weeks \$120

Workshop presenter Bridget Bufford has been certified in the Amherst Writers & Artists method since 1999. Please call 573-864-9326 or email Pericula@aol.com for more information.