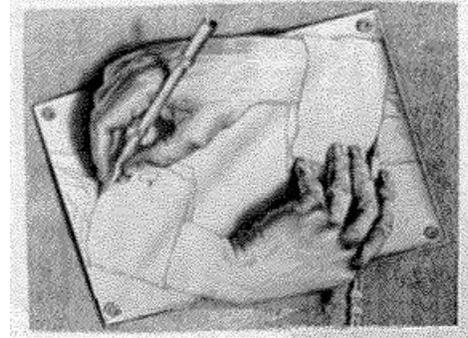


The Write Stuff

*Newsletter of the Columbia Chapter –
Missouri Writers' Guild*

*January 2013 Issue
Edited by – Judy Stock*



“I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.” — Maya Angelou

The President's Message

Larry was wanting to write about *Well Versed*, but was still waiting for information. I suggested we go ahead and send the newsletter. Come to the meeting Sunday. He will talk about *Well Versed* then.

This is a difficult issue to get out, as everyone is tied up in holiday fun. Yes, me, too. Cut us some slack. Hope all of you had a really great Christmas.

Judy (writing for president Larry)

* * *

Message from MWG President

Date: Friday, December 28, 2012, 10:13 AM

MWG Members,

This morning I received an e-mail from a "Lisa Davis" informing me that I had received an honorable mention in a Who's

Who Among Authors and Publishers and directing me to a website for a supposed "News Digest International" to see the listing.

A quick Google search revealed this to be a common scam, apparently not a virus but an e-mail address harvesting trick for spammers. Unless you want your inbox to be filled with spam, I recommend not clicking on the link for "News Digest International" if you receive a similar e-mail.

Thanks,
Steve W.

* * *

Upcoming CCMWG Meetings

Sunday, January 6, 2013 — Speaker

Sunday, February 3, 2013 — Critiques:
poetry, prose

Sunday, March 3, 2013 — ***Speaker*** —
Steve Wiegenstein, President of Missouri
Writers' Guild.

Sunday, April 7, 2012 — Critiques: poetry,
prose

The Write Direction Conference

November 10, 2012

Attendees enjoyed a warm, sunny day for the CCMWG event featuring the theme of Taking the Next Step.

"Taking the Next Step could be deciding to write at all, to writing poetry, to writing a novel, to getting an agent. The next step is different for everyone," said Judy Stock, president of CCMWG.

Keynote speaker, Bill Clark, speaking on "The Joy of Taking the Next Step," regaled us with stories about the multitude of next steps he has taken.

Bridget Bufford, local writing facilitator and author of *Cemetery Bird*, told attendees how to Create Characters through Archetypes. Some of the resources that she mentioned in the session include: *The Man with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell, *45 Master Characters* by Victoria Schmidt, and *Archetype Cards* by Carolyn Myss.

Matthew Murrie gave us an informative session on writing nonfiction for children. He started an event/organization called "What if..." designed to develop a look at our curious world.

Check the "Successes" section for information on his latest endeavor.

William Trowbridge, Missouri State's third poet laureate received his M.A. in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Ph.D. in English from Vanderbilt University. His poetry publications include five full collections: *Ship of Fool*, *The Complete Book of Kong*, *Flickers*, *O Paradise* and *Enter Dark Stranger*. He teaches in the University of Nebraska MFA Writing Program.

Edward Adelstein, MD, spoke about the VA murders and the need for everyone, especially writers, to stand up for the truth. He and a colleague put their careers in

jeopardy when they blew the whistle on what was happening at the VA Hospital.

Donna Volkenannt, winner of the Erma Bombeck Global Humor Award, spoke on structuring short stories for "passion and profit." She used the fairy tale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, as an exercise in how to construct plot, setting, action and characters.

A trio of publishers—Lou Turner, Yolanda Ciolli, and Linda Fisher—formed a panel. They spoke on what publishers are looking for and how to develop a relationship with a publisher. They told what could be a "no, no" as well as what a writer could do to improve the odds of being published.

Attendees had been invited to submit the First Page of a novel. A moderator read the page. The three publishers would raise a hand if they heard something which would cause them to put it in the discard pile. After the page was finished, the trio would comment on why they said "Stop" and answered questions about their thinking and decisions.

It takes a lot of people and a lot of work to stage an event like The Write Direction, but every year we increase the number of people attending. The evaluations this year were 99% positive.

Online Resource from Conference

For those interested in reading more about the "First Page" segment of the conference, Carolyn Mulford posted a blog called "Problems with That Crucial First Page" on her website. Click on the News item in the lower right corner of <http://CarolynMulford.com>.

For more fun, Google the website; it will give Carolyn more hits on Google.

Successes

Matthew Murrie reports another writing "gig" he has picked up. He has been invited to do a regular blog on the Huffington Post to promote and develop a community for an event/organization he started called, What If...? It's a little like TED Talks, but its focus is on developing a more curious world. Think how this might apply to writers. He'd love for us to help by spreading it around. Here is the link:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matt-murrie/what-if-conference_b_2277465.html?utm_hp_ref=fb&src=sp&comm_ref=false He also included a link to a presentation at a Columbia TEDx event: <http://youtu.be/HPAUEnqjfU>

Svetlana Grobman said she would "never-ever" write a blog. So she started writing one two months ago and would like to share it with the group. You can find her at: <http://svetlanagrobmanwrites.wordpress.com/other-blogs>

Carol Gorski Buckels sent word she has moved to Daytona Beach, Florida, where she is setting up a new office at Stetson University as their Director of Grants, Sponsored Research and Strategic Initiatives. She says life is going great among the palm trees. **Go, Carol!** She can be reached at cgb@centurytel.net Carol also had her poem "Before the Eclipse" published in *The Whirlybird Anthology of Kansas City Writers: Writers* paperback * 282 pages ISBN: 978-0-9647053-6-4 \$15:00 Edited by: Vernon Rowe, Maryfrances Wagner, David Ray, Judy Ray. Carol was unable to attend the book launch due to her move.

Carolyn Mulford recently signed a contract for the second book in her mystery/suspense series set in a fictitious county in northern Missouri. Five Star Publishing, part of Gale Research/Cengage Learning, will publish *Show Me the Deadly Deer* in December 2013.

Five Star will release the first book in the series, *Show Me the Murder*, in late February. In this book a wounded former CIA covert operative returns to her hometown to recover and relax. She arrives as her old friend, a civic leader, buries her husband. Everyone except the widow believes he shot his mistress and then himself. The international spy and the small-town politician use their diverse skills to uncover the truth about the deaths.

Ida Fogle reports her essay, "Playing Ball," has been published in the winter edition of *Ducts*. The link to the publication is: <http://www.ducts.org> A direct link to her essay is: <http://www.ducts.org/content/playing-ball/>

Susan Finlay signed with Artema Press, a new publishing company in Tennessee, in October 2012, for her mystery novel series called *The Outsider*. The first book is scheduled to come out in early 2013.

Edna Bell-Pearson has two new books out this fall. *Cul de Sac* and *Caribbean Sunrise*. Both books are available in print and ebook through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. *Fragile Hopes, Transient Dreams*, published in 2006, was chosen as one of *150 Best Kansas Books*. *Cul de Sac*, basically a fictional study of retirement life, is set in a retirement village in the "Foothills of the Ozarks." *Caribbean Sunrise*, a romantic suspense novella, is set in the state of Quintana Roo in the Yucatan Peninsula. For more information, go to her website at www.bell-pearson.com.

Sarah Briggs published her first book, a collection of Steven King-type horror stories called *Everything to Fear: Vol. 1*. It is available from Amazon.com in paperback as well as an ebook for the Kindle. The link is http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=sarah+laden+briggs

Linda Fisher edited the stories in *A Shaker of Margaritas: Bad Hair Day* released by Mozark Press LLC in November 2012. Included in *A Shaker of Margaritas: A Bad Hair Day* released in October 2012 by Mozark Press were offerings by the following CCMWG members: "Leftovers" by Carolyn Mulford, "Bomb Squad" by Betsy Murphy, "Bunny Hops" by Ed Bailey, and "Hairspray" by Linda Fisher.

Anthology Serves as a Fundraiser

As a freelance writer and editor, Carolyn Mulford learned to increase her income by recycling her research for nonfiction articles and books.

When her short story appeared in *A Shaker of Margaritas: A Bad Hair Day*, she applied the same principle. She suggested that the Columbia branch of the American Association of University Women sell the anthology as a fundraiser for an international charitable organization chosen by AAUW's Raising Our Half the Sky committee. Carolyn chairs that committee.

With the cooperation of Mozark Press editor/publisher Linda Fisher, the AAUW branch acted as a nonprofit vendor. Members have sold approximately 50 copies of the anthology. The earnings will go to Women for Women International, one of the organizations recommended by authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn in *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* and on <http://halftheskymovement.org>.

Carolyn points out that using the anthology as a fundraiser increased her satisfaction, not her income.

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Upcoming Events

Boone County Museum & Galleries hold a series called *Book Talks* on select Saturday mornings.

**At 9:30, Hot coffee and pastries by
The Flour Girls Bake Shop.**

TALKS BEGIN AT 10:00

January 12: Marty Paten, The Columbia Branch Railroad

February 9: Margaret Sayers Peden, "A Life in Translation." Peden is the Isabel Allende translator.

March 9: Dr. Steve Weinberg, Taking On The Trust: The Epic Battle of Ida Tarbell and John D. Rockefeller.

April 6: William Least Heat-Moon, Here, There and Elsewhere and Blue Highways (30th Anniversary Edition)

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Local Classes

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).

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

1/04/2013 to 2/22/2013

3/01/2013 to 4/26/2013

(no class 3/29)

8 week sessions \$120; scholarships available
Friday mornings 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

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.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

1/09/2013 to 2/27/2013

3/06/2013 to 4/24/2013

Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 9:30 pm

8 week sessions \$120; scholarships

Bridget Bufford, Author

www.bridgetbufford.com

Contests

Historically Yours Challenge

Liz Davis, "Historically Yours" columnist, challenges members of the CCMWG to write every day during the month of January. Write a poem, short story, letter to a friend, a page on your current project, or even a more innovative journal entry. Keep a list of the date with a note of what you wrote, like "letter," "two pages on current project," or even "grocery list." At the end of January, send your list to Liz at farmersdau@yahoo.com. Names of those who meet the challenge will be announced at the February 2013 meeting. Everyone who meets the challenge will be entered in a drawing for a free gift.

Missouri Writers' Guild Contests

The list of Missouri Writers' Guild contests, complete with entry rules and submission guidelines, is now up on the MWG website at www.missouriwritersguild.org!

The contest winner announcements are always a highlight of the Annual Conference banquet, so if you're planning to attend the conference, now's the time to register, while you can still get both the member discount and the early bird discount!

Complete conference registration information is available on the website as well.

Ballot Press

Ballot Press is a book publisher that provides a monthly contest along with interactions with other writers.

Each month, a new winner is chosen for a \$2,000 prize and a chance to be published based on votes from readers and Ballot Press judges.

This is a good deal for writers at a time mainstream publishers have lowered

percentages to authors of eBooks while offering less marketing. Ballot Press contest winners who are chosen for publishing are provided professional editing and unique and aggressive marketing that includes selling through other online eBook retailers. Ballot Press authors earn 50 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of their work. In addition, through our monthly contest, writers are provided critiques from other authors.

Go to ballotpress.com for contest rules and more information.

If you have questions, please email me Josh Friedman at jfriedman@ballotpress.com.

2013 Senior Poets Laureate and White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate contests

Amy Kitchener reports the December edition of The Dip/oemat is now online. It includes Rules for these contests and an Amy challenge you won't want to miss. Website is <http://amykitchenerfdn.org/december2012/december.html>, or go to www.amykitchenerfdn.org or contact amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com.

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A member sent the following list from:

Justacontest.com

The Dream Quest One Poetry & Writing Contest

Entry fees: \$10 per short story, \$5 per poem

Postmark deadline: January 13, 2013

All winners will be announced on February 23, 2013

<http://www.dreamquestone.com>

New Millennium Writings Awards for Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction

Entry Fee: \$20

Deadline: January 31, 2013

<http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com>

<http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php>

Valhalla Press Flash Fiction and Memoir Contest
Entry Fee: \$15
Deadline: February 1, 2013
<http://www.valhallapress.com/>
<http://www.valhallapress.com/contest.php>
http://www.valhallapress.com/contest_terms_flash.php

Literary Juice Flash Fiction Contest
Entry Fee: \$5
Deadline: February 15, 2013
<http://www.literaryjuice.com>
<http://www.literaryjuice.com/#/contests/4569342988>

Doris Betts Fiction Prize
Entry Fee: \$20
Deadline: February 15, 2013
<http://www.ncwriters.org/>
[http://www.ncwriters.org/programs-and ... doris-betts-fiction-prize](http://www.ncwriters.org/programs-and...doris-betts-fiction-prize)

Switchback Editor's Prize
Entry Fee: Free
Deadline: February 28, 2013
<http://www.swback.com>
<http://www.swback.com/call/>

The Kite journal Annual Short Fiction Contest
Entry Fee: \$10
Deadline: June 15, 2013
<http://kitejournal.x10.mx/>
<http://kitejournal.x10.mx/contest>

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Just for Fun

I changed my iPod name to Titanic.
It's syncing now.

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

How does Moses make his tea?
Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went.
Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never me herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns.
It was a play on words.

They told me I had type A blood,
But it was a Type-O.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

Energizer bunny arrested.
Charged with battery.

I didn't like my beard at first.
Then is grew on me.

Broken pencils are pointless.

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not sure.

And my favorite:

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

Officers of CCMWG 2013

President	Larry Allen
Vice-President	Linda Fisher
Secretary	Sarah Briggs
Treasurer	Suzanne Pautler
Membership	Liz Davis
Administrative Assistant	Judy Stock
Member-at-Large	Lori Younker