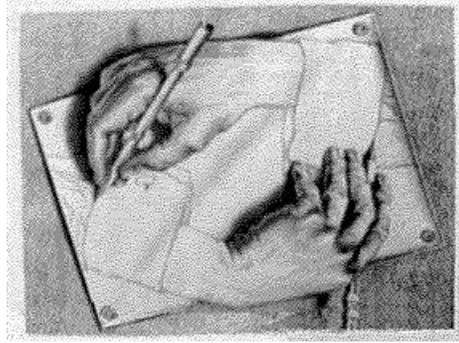


The Write Stuff

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

*January 2012 Issue
Edited by – Eva Ridenour*



“If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.” Toni Morrison

The President's Message

I hope all of you had a very

Special Holiday, whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice, and may you have a very Happy New Year!!!

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With The Write Directions Conference, on November 5, we closed another year in the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

It was a good year. We accomplished a lot, and owe many thanks to Eva Ridenour, our out-going President, and her board.

We had many good speakers including Maureen Stanton and Lillian Jackson. We were also honored by a visit from Deborah Marshall, president of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

The coming year, 2012, offers us many challenges in our writing endeavors.

We will start the year on January 8 with critique sessions.

The poetry sessions are pretty well organized, although the group may be a bit large. The group may wish to consider putting the current guidelines in writing.

The prose group may wish to consider setting up separate fiction and nonfiction groups and setting up some guidelines.

Please check out the various contests we have listed elsewhere in the newsletter. The MWG contests open January 1, 2012. CCMWG is sponsoring a chapter contest, “Best Regional Story or Legend.” I am working on getting an outside judge. That means all of you need to get busy, as you will be able to enter.

Check the MWG President's contests and all of the MWG sponsored contests. There is more information online. There are also online sites, conferences, and other contests listed.

We have a New Year to play with. It's time to set our writing goals, get out “butt-on” chair in place, and have a great time working on our dreams.

Yes, it's a New Year. Make the most of it.

Judy Stock, President

Officers of CCMWG 2012

President	Judy Stock
Vice-President	Linda Fisher
Secretary	Christian A. Young
Treasurer	Bridget Bufford
Administrative Assistant	Eva Ridenour
Member-at-Large	To be appointed

Saying Goodbye

Once in a great while in a person's life, they meet a person who influences them in a positive way even though they barely know that person. Such is my experience with Betty Cook Rottmann. When I first came to Missouri, I attended an open mic at the Daniel Boone Library. I didn't know who the dignified lady was, but in her tailored business suit, coordinating scarf and matching hat, she stood before the mic and read several of her many poems. Although I hadn't written any poetry at that time, I was impressed at the simplicity of the words and yet the emotions they stirred within me.

It was months and several meetings later at CCMWG before I learned that this lady I kept running into, though occasionally, was Betty Cook Rottmann, the one and only lifetime honored member of the group. As I sat nervously awaiting time to read one of my first poems at The Festival of the Arts, Betty sat beside me. She whispered, "Are you going to read?" I replied, "Yes, but I'm frightened because I didn't know whether what I was writing is poetry or not." She assured me that I'd do well. When I returned to my seat, she confirmed that yes, I was reading poetry.

I'm suspicious that Betty may have impacted many lives over her 89 years much as she did mine. Numerous articles written about her in local newspapers have told her story. She'd resided in Columbia for more than 50 years before moving to Arkansas to be closer to her daughter. Her many activities included being a wife, mother, grandmother, assistant librarian, college student, University of Missouri staff member, professional journalist, photographer, poet, feminist activist and community organizer. She has been recipient of prestigious awards such as the 1985 Equal Opportunity Award on the Status of Women, the 1988 MU Retiree of the Year Award for the Community Service, a 2003 Governor's Excellent in Community Heritage Award, the 2005 Missouri Women's Network Award, the 2007 University of Missouri Mortar Board Honor Tap in recognition of her lifetime of excellent journalist contributions, along with her untiring services to the university, the profession of journalism and the Columbia community. She was also the recipient of the Missouri Writers' Guild's highest award, the Walter

Williams Major Work Award in 1990 for *Tyrant of Tears*, her book of poetry.

In addition to being a member of MWG, she was a member of CCMWG and had served as president several years ago. She also served in the capacity of member-at-large for several years.

My last encounter with Betty was in 2007 when she was autographing copies of her recently revised version of *Tyrant of Tears*. She signed my book by saying something about me "leading" the group, but what she said to me verbally is something I haven't been able to forget. She said that a person "has to be able to bear their soul to write poetry." I've learned in the years since, that she's right. The poems in which I've opened my complete feelings have become my best work.

In recent years, Betty had not been able to get around Columbia like she once had. She passed away in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 26, 2011 and her memorial service in Columbia was on December 10.

I think I can safely say that Betty Cook Rottmann is one of those people who made a difference in the lives of most of the people she met. As an activist, they might not have agreed with her, as a student, they may have resisted what she had to say, but no matter what, I'm sure she smiled that sweet knowing smile of hers and moved on, knowing that she'd given the person something to think about. We'll miss you, Betty, but you're still with us.

Eva Ridenour

Member News

Bridget Bufford had a recent interview for the Word: Missouri series on the KBIA website: <http://www.kbia.org/post/pushcart-nominated-novelist-bridget-bufford-missouri-roots-3/> and her latest novel, *Cemetery Bird* is being featured on the Daniel Boone Regional Library One Read page at <http://oneread.dbrl.org/2011/12/01/suggested-one-read-cemetery-bird/>

Linda Fisher edited two books released by Mozark Press LLC in November. She was the copy editor for *Storm Country: The Anthology* and edited the

stories in *A Shaker of Margaritas: Cougars on the Prowl*. Linda has stories in both anthologies and will hold a book signing at Sedalia Book and Toy December 3 and at a Smithton School Fundraiser on December 4.

Successes

Linda Fisher won three writing awards from Ozarks Writers League at the November 18 Awards Banquet at Branson. She was awarded 2nd Place in the Non Fiction Article Contest for "Living With Alzheimer's Disease," 3rd in the Gene Andereck Short Story contest for "Where the Bodies Are Buried," and 3rd in the Unpublished Book Contest for "The Black Widow Social Club."

Sylvia Forbes received a first place for her non-fiction article in the OWL Contest.

Svetlana Grobman has an article, the story of her wedding titled "My Valentine" accepted for publication by *Chicken Soup for the Soul* – "Here Comes the Bride" Issue. The book is scheduled to come out in May 2012.

Marilyn Hope Lake received third place for a feature article and honorable mention for the first chapter of a book in the 2011 Kansas Author's Club Contests presented at the 2011 statewide conference held October 9, 2011.

Debbie S. Parker has a story in *A Shaker of Marguerites: Cougars on the Prowl*.

Judy Stock received an honorable mention for her story "Did Your Resolutions Bite the Dust?" in the non-fiction article division of the OWL Contests.

Christian A. Young's story "The Dragon's Bargain," is in *Crossed Genres' Subversion* anthology that came out on December 5, 2011.

Other News

Thom Dawkins, a local poet and educator, facilitates a monthly poetry workshop and discussion group at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month. You can find information at

www.thomdawkins.com or contact Thom via e-mail at thomdawkins@gmail.com.

Upcoming CCMWG Meetings

Sunday, January 8, 2012 – Critiques, poetry and prose

Sunday, February 5, 2012 – Keija Parssinen of Columbia, *Speaker* – She will read from her novel *The Ruins of Us* and will talk about her road to publication with plenty of time for questions.

This is Keija's first novel and, is now available for pre-order online and will be released to book stores on January 17th, 2012! Anthony Swofford, author of *JARHEAD*, says of the novel, "THE RUINS OF US is an arresting story of family and country. Parssinen's characters are richly conceived and her evocative petrol universe of wealth, privilege, and intrigue is unforgettable. Powerful storytelling that is refreshing and entertaining," Publishers Weekly calls it a "gripping, well-crafted debut," and Amanda Eyre Ward says "Parssinen teaches us that while cultural differences run deep, when it comes to matters of the heart, we are all the same. I was dazzled by this book."

This novel has been years in the making and its publication is truly a dream made real.

Sunday, March 4, 2012 - Critiques, poetry and prose

The January Challenge

Want to participate?

Writers - are you up for a challenge? Start 2012 off strong, by writing something daily. It can be as short or as long as you want. Write for 10 minutes or 10 hours. The challenge is just to write daily, to get ourselves in the good habit of regular writing.

I've created a Facebook page, called January Writers, where anyone who participates can post their daily word totals, post links to their stories, or write comments on how their writing went that day. Just search for January Writers.

Wishing many writing successes for everyone in 2012!

Happy New Year!

Sylvia Forbes

Upcoming Events

4 WINTER WRITING CONFERENCES

Space Coast Writers Guild Annual Conference will be held January 27-28 in Cocoa Beach, Florida. With more than a dozen speakers, one of the main draws of this conference is the location.

On the same weekend, though a different coast, San Diego State University will host the San Diego State University Writers Conference on January 27-29. This conference offers consultation opportunities with publishing professionals.

That same weekend will also be when the SCBWI Annual Winter Conference takes place in New York City. The premiere event for children's book writers and illustrators, the conference will be held January 27-29.

AWP Annual Conference and Book Fair will be held in Chicago on February 29-March 3. One of the biggest writing-related conference events of the year. Speakers include Jane Friedman, Christina Katz, and Seth Harwood.

Missouri Writers' Guild Conference

April 20, 21 & 22, 2012

Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center of St. Louis, 16625 Swingley Ridge Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017, Tel: 1-636-532-5000

Keynote speaker – Christina Katz is the author of three books from *Writer's Digest: The Writer's Workout, Get Known Before the Book Deal, and Writer Mama.*

Luncheon keynote speaker is Claire Cook, bestselling author of 8 novels, including *Must Love Dogs, Best Staged Plans, Seven Year Switch*, with a 9th, *Wallflower in Bloom*, to be published by Simon & Schuster Touchstone in June 2012

To see complete lineup for the conference and register, see, Missouri Writers' Guild Website www.missouriwritersguild.org

Internet Resources for Writers

GENERAL WRITING HELP

The Purple Crayon: Writing, Illustrating, and Publishing Children's Books: Basic information and articles for the beginning writer, interviews with writers and editors, and more. <http://www.underdown.org/>

Smart Writers: For everyone who reads, writes, or teaches literature for kids. <http://www.smartwriters.com/>

The Random Name Generator: Uses data from the US Census to randomly generate male and female names. <http://www.kleimo.com/random/name.cfm>

SFWA Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America: Great resource for "writer beware" articles and much more <http://www.sfwaw.org/>

Helping Writers Become Authors: Article on "Writing the High Concept Hook" and more. <http://querytracker.blogspot.com/2009/02/writing-high-concepthook.html>

The Write Thought: Article on "The High Concept or Elevator Speech." <http://www.scribd.com/doc/51079059/How-to-Write-a-High-Concept-or-Elevator-Speech>

Ruth A Castle Blog: Blog on "10 Ways to Stay Motivated While You Write." <http://ruthacasie.blogspot.com/2011/11/10-ways-to-staymotivated-while-you.html>

Writing-World: Article on "Creating Great Heroes and Heroines." <http://www.writingworld.com/romance/heroes.shtm>
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Book Laurie: Article on "Creating Your Hero's Fatal Flaw." http://www.booklaurie.com/workshops_flaw2.php

Desert Rose RWA: Article on “Ten Steps to a Yummy Hero.”

<http://www.desertroserwa.org/writersguide/Romance-Writers%27-Rough-Yummie-Hero.php>

MARKETING RESOURCES

American Booksellers Association: Includes addresses of bookstores across the country.

<http://www.bookweb.org/index.html>

Market Your Book: Article on “6 Ways to Analyze Your Target Audience” and more.

<http://marketyourbookblog.com/2011/analyze-target-audience/>

Market Your Book: Article on “Snag Blog Readers with a Grabber headline.”

<http://marketyourbookblog.com/2011/>

[snag-blog-readers-grabber-headline/The Klout Score](http://snag-blog-readers-grabber-headline/The%20Klout%20Score): Measures your ability to drive action through creating content and engaging others, uses data from social networks. <http://klout.com/corp/kscore>

My Expert Score: A scoring tool to help established and aspiring authors determine where you rank as an expert.

<http://72.48.142.210/MyExpertScoreNew/home.php>

Content Marketing Institute: Article on “How to Put Together an Editorial Calendar for Content Marketing.”

<http://www.contentmarketinginstitute.com/2010/08/content-marketing-editorial-calendar/>

Novel Publicity & Co: Article on “The Complete and Unabridged Guide to GoodReads for Authors...”

<http://www.novelpublicity.com/2011/09/the-complete-andunabridged-guide-to-goodreads-for-authors-account-set-up-customization-and-widgets-lots-of-widgets/>

Write Nonfiction Now: Article on “How to Get Bloggers to Review Your Nonfiction Book.” <http://writenonfictionnow.com/how-to-get-bloggers-to-reviewyour-nonfiction-book/>

Google Analytics: Gives you insights into your website traffic and marketing effectiveness.

<http://www.google.com/analytics/>

The Savvy Book Marketer: Article on “Pricing Strategies for Ebooks.”

http://bookmarketingmaven.typepad.com/ebook_publishing/2011/09/pricing-strategies-forebooks.html

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Scirus: A search engine for scientific articles and publications. <http://www.scirus.com/>

PubGenre: A database of genes, biological terms and organisms. <http://www.pubgene.org/>

Godchecker: A tool to help keep your gods and goddess' straight.

http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/index.php?_search

Contests

The Cultural Center of Cape Cod Sixth Annual National & Regional Poetry Competitions A National Prize of \$1,000 will be awarded for a single, unpublished poem that has not won 1st prize in any national competition. Open to all U.S. residents 18 years & older. Deadline: January 16, 2012. Info at <http://www.cultural-center.org/poetrycontestguidelines02012.pdf>

The Colorado Prize for Poetry - This is an international literary contest for manuscripts of poems, at least 48 pages but no more than 100 pages. Winner receives a \$2,000 honorarium and the book-length collection of poems will be published by the Center for Literary Publishing. Deadline: January 14, 2012. Info at <http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/colorado-prize-for-poetry/submission-guidelines-mail/>

Nimrod – is seeking poetry 3-10 pages and fiction and creative nonfiction up to 7,500 words on the theme “The View from Here” for their Spring 2012 issue *Nimrod*. Deadline for entries is January 15, 2012. For more information see website at www.utulas.edu/nimrod.

2012 News Letters Literary Awards for Writers an international quarterly magazine of writing and art is seeking poems, short fiction or non-fiction for the 2012 contest. Prizes are \$1,500 for a short

story, \$1,500 for 3-6 poems and \$1,500 for an essay. Deadline for submission is May 18, 2012. For more information go to www.newsletters.org

Workshop

Novel Writing Workshop by Nancy Mehl

Nancy Mehl, award winning author is holding a novel writing workshop in January. Classes will be held for six Saturdays in a row beginning January 7 thru February 11, 2012. Class time is from 9:30-11:30 am. In the second floor boardroom at City Arts, 334 N. Mead Street in Old Town, Wichita, Kansas. She will go over all aspects of writing and marketing a novel. For fee information and to sign up, call (316) 267-1334 and ask for Nancy. Or email Nancy at nancymehlbooks@hotmail.com.

Online Writing Jobs

eHow Writer:

Home and garden writer for a freelance position, telecommuting from a home office. Info at <http://www.flexjobs.com/publicjobs/ehow-writer-46679>
Freelance Writers, Bloggers and Experts

Online resource and review company looking for freelance writers and bloggers that are experts in a variety of topics for telecommuting. Info at <http://www.flexjobs.com/publicjobs/freelance-writers-bloggers-and-experts-23462>

Dog Expert Blogger

Creative Blogger needed to write about variety of topics related to owning a dog, pays per blog post. Telecommute. Info at <http://www.flexjobs.com/publicjobs/dog-expertblogger-41780>

Freelance Writing at Suite 101

Offers writers from around the world the opportunity to publish compelling, non fiction articles and earn residueal income. Info at http://www.suite101.com/freelance_writing_jobs