

Liberty States Fiction Writers

New York ~ New Jersey ~ Pennsylvania



Volume 1 Issue 11

Let Freedom Ring!

November 2009

Anne Walradt, Newsletter Editor

Whitney McKnight, Layout Editor

If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with the newsletter, please contact Anne Walradt:

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If you cannot read this newsletter, please try these alternatives:

LINK TO WEB VERSION:

[Liberty States Fiction Writers Newsletter](#)

(requires login to Members Only area of Liberty States Fiction Writers Website)

LINK TO PDF VERSION in Files Section:

[LSFW Announcements](#)

(requires login to Liberty Announcements Yahoogroups)

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Gail Freeman, President

Dear Members:

As I write this column, the leaves are still brilliant burst of colors outside my window and I haven't even given one thought to who is on my Christmas list, let alone whether they've been naughty or nice. My biggest concern right now is when to tell my bosses exactly what day I'm going to retire and convincing my husband that I deserve to stop working and devote myself to finally getting a book published. Still, the new year will arrive and with it, the Board at Liberty States Fiction Writers has some decisions to make. The big one right now is how to spend the organization's money for next year.

[Read more . . .](#)

Next Month's Meeting:

November Meeting: The next meeting of the Liberty States Fiction Writers is on November 14th at the Edison Public Library on Plainfield Avenue.

November's meeting will be a panel featuring Agent Stephany Evans and NAL editor Jessica Wade. They'll discuss what they're looking for in both authors and their manuscripts. A Q&A session will follow. As an added bonus, Stephany and Jessica will take part in a speed pitching session after their panel.

Stephany Evans is with Fine Print Literary and has been agenting for 20 years. In fiction, her core interest is in stories with a strong female protagonist, both literary and up-market commercial - including chick lit, romance, mystery and light suspense. She also represents non-fiction in the areas of health and wellness, spirituality, personal growth/self-help, lifestyle, and narrative nonfiction. She likes to laugh and has a somewhat dark sense of humor.

Jessica Wade is an Associate Editor at New American Library, an imprint of Penguin Group USA. She acquires science fiction, fantasy, mystery, romance, women's fiction, historical fiction and young adult fiction. She's a graduate of Georgetown University and a New York City resident (but a New Jersey native.)

Roundtable Sessions

A speed pitching session will be in place of roundtable sessions this month. If you want to take part in the speed pitching, you should have a complete or nearly complete manuscript and a short pitch about your manuscript. Speed pitching sessions last for only 5 minutes each. So polish up your pitch and be ready to wow Stephany and Jessica.

Networking and Snacks

During/After the Roundtable Sessions, members may network and either brown bag lunch or share snacks with fellow members.

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Articles in this Issue:

You Can Always Unscrew a Light Bulb

By Irene Peterson

[Read more . . .](#)

Book Trailers

By Rayna Vause

[Read more . . .](#)

Social Media Promotion

by Caridad Pineiro

[Read more . . .](#)

The Art of Contract Negotiation: An Essential Skill for Writers

by Tina Sickler, a/k/a Tina Gabrielle

[Read more . . .](#)

Author Spotlight:

November's Author Spotlight is on Caridad Pineiro



Caridad Pineiro (Charity to her friends) was born in Havana, Cuba, and settled in the New York Metropolitan area. She attended Villanova University on a Presidential Scholarship and graduated magna cum laude. Caridad earned her juris doctor from St. John's University and became the first female partner of Abelman, Frayne & Schwab, an intellectual property firm in midtown Manhattan.

Caridad is a multi-published and award-winning author whose love of the written word developed when her fifth grade teacher assigned a project – to write a book that would be placed in a class lending library. She has been hooked on writing ever since.

In 1999, Kensington published her first book as part of Encanto, the first line of bilingual Latino romance novels. In 2000, she was one of the first Latino authors featured at the launch of BookExpo America's Spanish Pavillion. In December 2006, DEATH CALLS, Chairty's first book in the award-winning THE CALLING Vampire series, helped launch Silhouette's successful Nocturne paranormal line. Her CHICAS novels, including her seventeenth release, SOUTH BEACH CHICAS CATCH THEIR MAN from Simon & Schuster's Downtown Press, have garnered praise from both fellow authors and reviewers and are helping to make Latina fiction a vital part of the publishing mainstream.

In 2007 the New York City Chapter of the Romance Writers of America named her the Author of the Year Award, presenting her with their prestigious Golden Apple Award. Other recognitions include, DANGER CALLS and DEATH CALLS named the top Fantasy Books of 2005 and 2006 by CATALINA magazine, the Cataromance Reviewers Choice Award for Best Nocturne in 2006 and the New Jersey Romance Writers Golden Leaf award in 2001 for Best Short Contemporary. She has been on the New York Times Extended Bestseller list and the USA TODAY Bestseller List. HOLIDAY WITH A VAMPIRE, a paranormal anthology with Maureen Child, made the BookScan Top 100 Adult Fiction list.

In 2009, debuted a new paranormal romantic suspense series with Grand Central Publishing. The first novel in the series, [SINS OF THE FLESH](#), was released this month.

And now a more intimate glimpse at this multi-talented author.

Tell us about the day you "got the call".

It was Good Friday and I was visiting my mother-in-law with my daughter. The phone rang and my husband called to say that I'd had a call from someone. He said he thought it was an editor because they wanted to talk about my book and that he had almost hung up on them because he thought it was a crank call. Instead, he took their number and told me to call her back. I did and to my surprise, it was an editor at Kensington who said she wanted to acquire the novel I had sent them, was I interested? I told her that I was and she advised that she would call me in a few days with details on the advance, etc. As soon as I hung, I started jumping up and down and telling my mother-in-law and daughter that an editor wanted to buy my book. Then we all started hugging and laughing. After, I called my husband and said, "Boy was I lucky you didn't hang up!" A few days later Kensington called to say they wanted to buy two books from me.

Why did you choose the paranormal genre?

I had written 9 contemporary romances for Kensington and realized I kept on wanting to put suspense and darkness in the novels, but couldn't. When the Encanto line folded, I was in a very dark mood and vented that in my work. I found that the story moved like no other. Even though people told me I couldn't sell it because no one was buying vampire novels, I gave myself a Christmas gift – the time to write the novel over my holiday

vacation. When I finished, I knew I had something very special. I also knew that I had found the genre that suited my voice the best.

What one of your books is your favorite to date?

My favorite book before writing SINS OF THE FLESH was DARKNESS CALLS. That was the book I wrote over that holiday vacation. Since I wrote SINS OF THE FLESH, it's giving DARKNESS CALLS a run for the money because SINS challenged me to try something different and stretch my wings. I fell in love with the characters and the story line.

What part of your writing career has been the most rewarding for you?

The most rewarding part of my career is meeting the wonderful writers and readers that I've been able to meet thanks to my writing career.

If you could only write one more book, what would it be?

I've had the opportunity to write a second book – DEATH CALLS – with the characters from DARKNESS CALLS, who are two of favorites. I would love to be able to do another book with them and provide the next installment in their love story.

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Meeting Review:

October's featured topic:

The October workshop was provided by Dr. Michael Rushnak who spoke on Medical Facts, Fiction and Writing Thrillers and the safety issues around prescription drugs, the underlying theme of his current medical mystery thriller.

About Dr. Rushnak: Dr. Rushnak graduated Rutgers Medical School in 1974 and is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. He founded a private practice in 1979 and practiced in the New Brunswick, NJ area until the early 90's when he entered the public health arena. Earning a Masters of Public Health degree from Rutgers, he was appointed the managing physician of health care planning at the NJ State Department of Health. After leaving government, Dr Rushnak has served in senior leadership positions at Horizon BCBSNJ, the pharmacy benefit company Caremark, and the biotech company, Medimmune. Dr. Rushnak retired last summer to dedicate his full attention toward the writing of medical mystery thriller novels that embody relevant messages about the "dark side" of healthcare and toward speaking about solutions to our healthcare challenges. His first novel *TERMINAL NEGLECT* sold out its first printing.

Guest speaker podcast info:

The podcast for the October will be available shortly. To listen to any of the monthly meeting podcats, login to LSFW's Motionbox account with the following information:

User Name: podcasts@lsfwriters.com

Password: liberty

To access Motionbox, please click on this link:

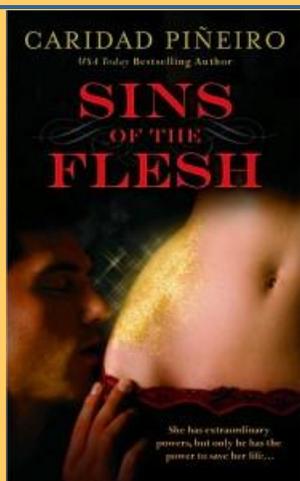
<http://www.motionbox.com/user/login>

Please note that Motionbox will only display the most recent podcasts on the first page. To see more podcasts, click on FAVORITES.

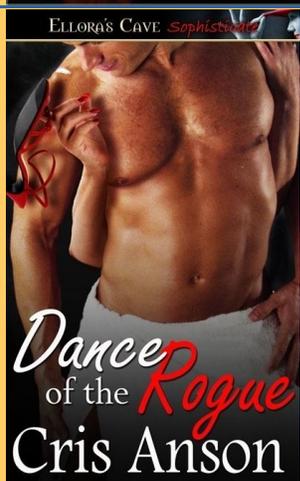
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Member News:

Various members of the Liberty States Fiction Writers participated in the group's street fair in Somerville.



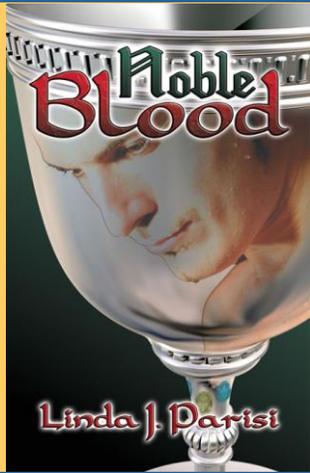
Caridad Pineiro has received 5 stars from SingleTitles.com for her November release **SINS OF THE FLESH**. Single Titles noted “An innovative paranormal romantic suspense series begins with **SINS OF THE FLESH**, where danger constantly lurks and pressing questions need immediate answers. Caridad Pineiro never disappoints, and her new series looks to be a winner in every possible way.”



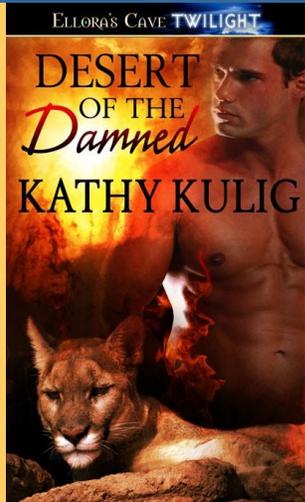
Cris Anson is pleased to announce that Literary Nymphs Reviews was given 5 Nymphs to her latest release, **DANCE OF THE ROGUE**.



C.H. Admirand just signed a contract with Sourcebooks for a 3 book deal to be published in mass market paperback!!! Dark-haired, dark-eyed Irishmen...Tyler, Clint & Jesse Garahan. The men of the Circle G. Book one is Tyler's story.



Linda Parisi is thrilled to announce that she won NJRW's Golden Leaf award for Best First Book. Her book is NOBLE BLOOD, from The Wild Rose Press.



Kathy Kulig reports that she just had an email from her editor at Ellora's Cave. She's been offered a contract for DAMNED AND DESIRED, book 2 in her Demons in Exile series.



Registration for the 2010 Create Something Magical Conference is now open! Please visit our conference page:

<http://www.libertystatesfictionwriters.com/lsf-writers-conference/>

On this page you can find information about our speakers, see the list of attending editors and agents, sign up to receive conference email updates and, of course, register to attend the conference. Over the coming months we will be posting information on the workshops, any additional speakers/editors/agents that will be attending, when editor/agent appointment sign up will open, as well as the conference schedule to this page, so stop back often.

We've tried to streamline the process of members adding events to the Liberty Calendar of Events (<http://www.libertystatesfictionwriters.com/calendar/>) (Just click on an event to expand it for additional details). To do this streamlining, we've created a public Google Calendar!

If you have an upcoming event that you wish to publicize, please cut and paste this link into your browser: http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=contact%40lsfwriters.com&ctz=America/New_York

You will be taken to the Google Calendar program where you can enter your information. Click on the small "Google Calendar" icon in the bottom right corner of the calendar. The user name and password are as follows:

User Name: contact@lsfwriters.com

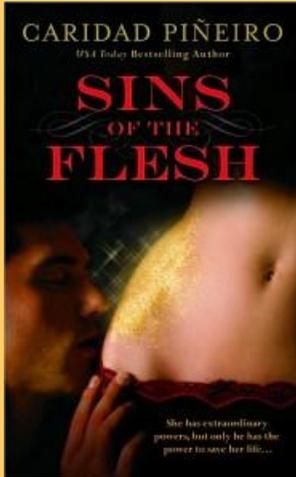
Password: Isfwmember

Please edit only your own events. Please list only those events in which you are personally participating. All members, whether SPA or not, may enter their writing-related events in the Liberty States Fiction Writers' Calendar of Events.

In case you forget this information, you may find the links and passwords in the Members Only section as well.

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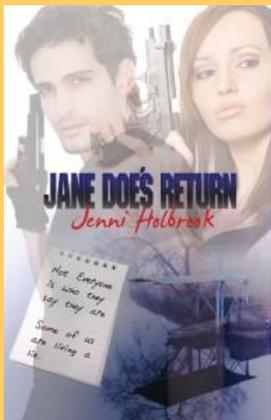
Upcoming & Recent Member Releases:



Sins of the Flesh by Caridad Pineiro November 2009

Grand Central Publishing

When an inoperable brain tumor robs Caterina Shaw of her sight and ability to perform, she turns to a radical gene therapy in order to recover the one thing that makes life bearable - her music. Mercenary Mick Carrera knows what kind of man he was. People come to him when no one else could handle their problems because Mick either solves them or eliminates them. His current assignment - locate Caterina Shaw, the woman suspected of murdering of a scientist at a high tech biomedical facility. But Caterina is not your typical murderer. In fact, Mick's not even sure Caterina is even human. Together, Mick and Caterina must not only solve the murder, but fight a battle to recover Caterina's humanity.



Jane Doe's Return by Jenni Holbrook The Wild Rose Press Available November 27, 2009 ISBN# 1-60154-578-9

Special Agent Travis Brown has set up his career so he can have access to information that will lead him to the one woman he believes can tell him who killed his sister. However, he is not prepared for the drive and determination of his new partner, Special Agent Shauna Morgan. Her instincts are razor sharp and her beauty is undeniable. His attraction to her is as strong as his need to find his sister's killer. What he doesn't know is that Shauna has a secret; a secret which will ultimately put his heart on the line, along with her life.

To see additional upcoming Member Releases, [please click here!](#)

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Spotlight on:

SPOTLIGHT:

Your story COULD be here!
If you'd like to share be featured in the member spotlight,
please contact Anne Walradt: <mailto:awalradt@aol.com>



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Road Story:

Your story COULD be here!
If you'd like to share your road to where you are in your writing career,
please contact Anne Walradt: <mailto:awalradt@aol.com>



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Contests and Online Courses:

Contests:

Writer's Digest is now accepting entries for its 10th Annual Short Short Story Contest. Enter your story of no more than 1500 words, any fiction genre. First place wins \$3000, Second place \$1500, with more cash prizes for other entries. The entry fee is \$15. **Deadline to enter is December 1, 2009.**

For more information and to enter online, go to <http://writersdigest.com/short> . *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

DEADLY INK SHORT STORY CONTEST 2010

All stories must be no more than 5,000 words, take place in New Jersey, and include a "Deadly Incident." Winners will be announced at the Deadly Ink Mystery Conference luncheon. **NO ENTRY FEE.** You may submit more than one story, but please send each one separately.

Prizes:

First Place: \$100.00

Second Place: \$50.00

Third Place: \$25.00

In addition, winning entries and selected non-winning entries will be published in the *2010 Deadly Ink Anthology*, which will be available for sale at the 2010 conference. Profits from the sale of the anthology will be donated to Literacy Volunteers and The Christopher Reed Foundation. Contest Rules: Not open to employees or family members of Deadly Ink. Entries may not be more than 5,000 words in length, must take place in New Jersey,

and include a "Deadly Incident" (murder, mayhem) that needs to be solved. Entries must be original work of the entrant and may not have been previously published. You do not need to attend the conference to enter the contest.

Entries must be postmarked between June 1, 2009, and February 15, 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.deadlyink.com/short.html> .

WOW! Women On Writing Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: MONTHLY

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Prize: Cash: \$200, \$150, \$100, Plus over \$2,000 in Prizes + publication + \$50 gift certificates

WOW! Women On Writing hosts a quarterly flash fiction contest open to English-speaking contestants across the globe. For more information, please visit www.wow-womenonwriting.com .

Suspense Magazine's SECOND Annual Writing Contest / Sweepstakes

Winners will receive the following:

1. **Grand Prize** - 12 books (some autographed) from each of the 12 authors of the month for 2009. To keep updated on the authors of the month, click on the author link above. Right now we have John Saul, John Lesocrat, John Sandford, Charlotte Hughes, and Steve Berry. The images on the left might not be necessarily the exact book from that author that you will receive. All books are in brand new condition, many coming from the author directly.
2. **Second Place** - \$50.00 gift card to Amazon.com
3. **Third Place** - \$25.00 gift card to Amazon.com

For more information, please visit <http://www.suspensemagazine.com/contest.html>

Please note that we do not endorse any of these contests and/or publications ask that you check the fine print regarding the contest rules, publication terms and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Online Courses:

"Heightening Conflict Through the Fatal Flaw & Shadow" with Connie Flynn November 16, 2009 - December 12, 2009

Enrollment Information: <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclassNov09.html>

COST: \$20 for OCC members, \$30 for non-members

If you have specific questions, email: occrwaonlineclass@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE CLASS: Three-dimensional characters need to evolve as your story unfolds. Troubles often arise when writers try to create characters who continually reveal new layers. Learn how the "triangle" technique can unveil your character's suppressed or shadow traits, which will emerge as the character struggles to overcome a deeply hidden flaw. It is the overcoming of this flaw that creates dynamic action, both external and internal.

The class will help you

- Identify your character's surface traits
- Find the corresponding shadows
- Match those to plausible "fatal flaws"
- Add natural traits that build tension
- Increase internal and external conflict
- Use plot points to ignite character change

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: Connie Flynn teaches popular fiction writing at Phoenix College and, periodically for Arizona State University's Piper Writing Center. She has written award-winning paranormal romances for Penguin and has recently expanded to mysteries and has completed two novels and one script, and also a short story, which was published by Red Coyote Press.

Enrollment Information: <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclassNov09.html>

COST: \$20 for OCC members, \$30 for non-members

Coming in January 2010:

"The Purpose Driven Scene" with Lynn Kerstan. This workshop focuses on how to develop a scene that is chock-full of character development, conflict, emotion, and for the reader- a vivid sense of "being there."

Visit <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html> for more information.

How to Write Power Sentences Presented by June Diehl

November 2, 2009 through November 16, 2009

Description: Power Writing will focus on multiple elements needed to build powerful sentences and paragraphs. From strong word choices, varying sentence structure, to putting sentences together to create dynamic paragraphs, the workshop uses examples, including some from published novels, and from the participants' own work, in strengthening the words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs on the page.

NOTE: This is not a grammar / punctuation workshop.

Outline: The workshop will cover the following: Strong word choices (use of powerful, active verbs and specific nouns), Phrasing and sentence structures, including cumulative sentences, Using the sentence fragment in narrative and dialog, Paragraphs (rhythm of sentences, combinations of long, medium, and short sentences, using one and two word sentences) **NOTE:** There will be assignments for the various subjects covered during the workshop. The participant will be using his/her own writing for some of the assignments.

Instructor Bio: P. June Diehl is the Editorial and Senior Editor for Virtual Tales, the Senior SF Editor for ePress-Online, and also coaches authors. Author of THE MAGIC & THE MUNDANE: A Guide for the Writer's Journey, she teaches/mentors writing classes online at Writer's Village University and for Pearls of Writing as well as having conducted workshops on various elements of creative writing. She is enrolled in UCLA's Writing Program, focusing on long and short fiction. Ms. Diehl has published poetry, short stories, and articles online and in print. She's finalizing a novel and working on four others. The author lives in Virginia with three cats and a dog.

Where: This workshop will be conducted via a Yahoo! email loop. Email invitations will be sent 48 hours prior to the beginning of the workshop. Just register for the workshop and complete the payment process via PayPal. The cost is \$10.00 for FFnP members and \$25.00 for non-FFnP members.

<http://www.romance-ffp.com/event.cfm?EventID=92>

"Warrior-Writer Overview: How to Go from Writer to Author, Creatively and in Business"

Led by Best Selling Author and Nationally Known Speaker Bob Mayer, Nov. 30, 2009 – Dec. 20, 2009

What: For both fiction and non-fiction authors, a workshop that focuses on educating writers how to be authors. Warrior Writer is a holistic approach encompassing goals, intent, environment, personality, change, courage, communication and leadership that gives the writer a road map to become a successful author. Many writers become focused on either the writing or the business end; Warrior Writer integrates the two. Warrior-Writer fills a critical gap in the publishing industry paradigm. While there are numerous workshops focused on just the writing, this is the only one that focuses on the strategies, tactics and mindset a writer needs to develop in order to be a successful author.

Author Bio: NY Times bestselling author Bob Mayer has 40 books published. He has over three million books in print and is in demand as a team-building, life-change, and leadership speaker and consultant. Bob graduated from West Point and served in the military as a Special Forces A-Team leader and a teacher at the JFK Special Warfare Center & School. His latest book is Who Dares Wins: The Green Beret Way to Conquer Fear & Succeed. He teaches novel writing and improving the author via his Warrior-Writer program. He lives on an island off Seattle. For more information see www.bobmayer.org.

Where: This workshop will be conducted via a Yahoo! email loop. Email invitations will be sent 48 hours prior to the beginning of the workshop. Just register for the workshop and complete the payment process via PayPal. The cost is \$10.00 for FFnP members and \$25.00 for non-FFnP members.

<http://www.romance-ffp.com/members/admin/event.cfm?EventID=79>

question. Thank you.

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New England Crime Bake

11/13 - 11/15/09 - Dedham, MA

Featuring bestselling author Sue Grafton, a variety of workshops, and the chance to pitch to editors and agents. For more information, please visit <http://crimebake.org/index.htm>

SLEUTHFEST 2010

02/26-02/28/10 – Boca Raton, FL

The Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America presents SLEUTHFEST 2010 featuring David Morrell and Stephen Cannell. For more information, please visit www.sleuthfest.com.

Liberty States Fiction Writers

Create Something Magical Conference

March 13, 2010

Featuring F. Paul Wilson * Virginia Kantra * Sarah Langan * Caridad Piñeiro * Mary Kennedy * and more...

Plus: Editor/Agent Appointments and a Networking Reception

Registration Opens October 1, 2009

Registration Fees:

Members: \$95 - Non-Members: \$115

Where: Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin, New Jersey

For more information, please visit <http://www.lsfwriters.com>.

Please note that we do not endorse any of these conferences and ask that you check the fine print regarding the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

If you wish to volunteer to do the Contests, Conferences and Online Courses section, please contact Anne Walrad.

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Market News:

Editor News:

Vicki Lame has been promoted to associate editor at St. Martin's. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Simon & Schuster UK group sales & marketing director **Charlotte Robertson** is leaving to join Aitken Alexander as an agent next year. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Dial Press, **Noah Eker** has been promoted to editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Kara Cesare is joining Gallery Books as executive editor in November. She has been at NAL. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Dutton, **Ben Sevier** has been promoted to executive editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Charles Griesman has taken over the Associate Editor's position previously held by **Diana Ventimiglia** at Silhouette Books. Griesman will be working for Silhouette Desire. He previously was an assistant editor for Silhouette Special Edition, and before that worked for Time Warner. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Elsewhere, **Brianne Mulligan** has joined Razorbill as an associate editor. She had been with Gotham Books. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Anna Sproul has been promoted to associate editor and foreign rights manager for the Gail Ross Literary

Agency. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At the Simon & Schuster imprint, both **Kerri Kolen** and **Sarah Hochman** have been promoted to senior editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Agent News:

Agent **Amy Tipton** has left FinePrint Literary Management to join Signature Literary Agency. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

George Bick has joined the Doug Grad Literary Agency as an associate agent. Bick is actively looking for narrative non-fiction, business, science fiction, horror/paranormal, thrillers, military, comics and graphic novels, diet/self-help, memoir, pets/animals, romance, science, humor, pop culture, and travel. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Grey James has joined East/West Literary Agency as an agent and partner. She was at Ingram for 11 years as a lead book buyer. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Publisher News:

Little, Brown publisher Michael Pietsch mentioned that the house is working on a new crime fiction imprint. The imprint wishes to find and grow new talent while also wooing established writers. The imprint will predominantly publish paperback originals. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Former Pantheon publisher **Janice Goldklang** has joined Globe Pequot Press as executive director of editorial. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Karen Woods is putting together a fantasy anthology, with all proceeds going to the **Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research**. She's looking for fantasy short stories which deal in some way with the consequences of dishonesty. 5000 to 10,000 words, in all sub-genres of fantasy *except* erotica or erotic romance. You can find all the details at <http://www.sleepingbeaglebooks.com>. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

If you wish to volunteer to do the Market News section, please contact Anne Walradt.

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New and Noteworthy Publishing News:

Please click on the text to access the link:

Agents Are Grumbling: Editors Turning Into Agents

http://www.mediabistro.com/galleycat/agents/agents_are_grumbling_editors_turning_into_agents_140191.asp

Borders to Close 200 Waldenbooks Outlets

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6705797.html?rssid=192>

Famous Authors NaNoRimo Tips

<http://inkwellbookstore.blogspot.com/2009/11/famous-authors-nanowrimo-tips-as-found.html>

Results Rise at S&S

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6705825.html?rssid=192>

John Irving Worries About Young Writers

http://www.mediabistro.com/galleycat/authors/john_irving_worries_about_young_writers_142377.asp?c=rss

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Current Bestsellers:

Please click on the text to access the link:

[Booksense Indie Bestsellers](#)

[NY Times Bestsellers](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)

[USA Today Bestsellers](#)

[Washington Post Bestsellers](#)

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www.libertystateswriters.com

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www.lsfwriters.com

[Become a Fan on Facebook!](#)

President's Column by Gail Freeman

Dear Members:

As I write this column, the leaves are still brilliant burst of colors outside my window and I haven't even given one thought to who is on my Christmas list, let alone whether they've been naughty or nice. My biggest concern right now is when to tell my bosses exactly what day I'm going to retire and convincing my husband that I deserve to stop working and devote myself to finally getting a book published. Still, the new year will arrive and with it, the Board at Liberty States Fiction Writers has some decisions to make. The big one right now is how to spend the organization's money for next year.

When the eight founders got together and conceived the idea of a group for writers of all fiction genres, we had a boatload of ideas and concerns. One of them was if we started a group, would anyone come? With close to 150 members, I think that concern can be put to rest! But in order to keep those members and grow even bigger, we realize that we can't become stagnant. It would be a death knell to sit back and say, "Well, this is working, our job is done."

So, with that in mind, I'm sending out a request to all our members and I'm asking, "What more can we do for you?" It was never our intent to work in a bubble and think that we knew what was best for everyone. Oh, we're not naïve enough to think that we can do everything but as we move forward, we need to know what you, the members, think. What would you like to see done that hasn't been done yet. Is there some type of program that would help you to achieve your goal of publication? Is there a promotional opportunity that our you would like to see implemented that would help to increase your name recognition and sales?

Program Chair Lois Winston has been very busy arranging workshops for next year. [Visit the website](#) and see what is already planned for 2010. Is there a speaker that you have heard in the past that you think would benefit the entire group? Do you want to see more craft workshops or do you think specialized workshops would be better? How about the roundtables? Would it benefit you to have hands-on time to work though a problem that is keeping you from finishing that book? All of these questions can only be answered by you and if you don't let us know, we can't address your needs.

Now you have your assignment. When you're figuring out who was naughty or nice and making that list, make your "wish list" for LSF Writers and send it to any Board member. We're only as good as the ideas that we get from our members.

*Regards,
Gail Freeman, President*

Gail has been writing for twelve years and is a yet to be a published author. Ms. Freeman served as President of another

writing organization for two years and has also served as Vice President, Treasurer, Special Events Chair, and Hospitality and Critique Chair in that organization. On a national level, Gail was one of the founding staff members of the Romance Writers of America's electronic newsletter, eNotes and served as editor of that publication for a number of years. In 2005, she was awarded the RWA's prestigious Service Award for her commitment and volunteer efforts. She also chaired the RWA's 2007 Chapter Newsletter Contest and the 2008 ad hoc committee for reform recommendations and changes to that contest. For the past eight years she has been a member of the RWA Communication Committee. After being out of high school for twenty years, Gail went back to college and obtained her associate degree in accounting. A lifelong resident of the Jersey Shore, Ms. Freeman believes in happy endings and working towards your goals, no matter how long it takes.



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You Can Always Unscrew a Light bulb By Irene Peterson



"Did you see what so and so wrote on her blog? Wasn't it awful?"

"Yeah, I heard editors and agents look at people's blogs they might want to buy from, and if the blog is awful, wow, they're in trouble."

"I heard that somebody tore this agent apart."

"I heard she ripped another author's book to shreds and the other author went after her. Lawsuit city!"

Yes, we've all heard stories like this. With the proliferation of ways to get into the public with words, everybody who is anybody has a blog, a MySpace account (though that's now outré supposedly) and a wall on Facebook where anybody and everybody can post anything they want, providing they are your friend.

Well, we'd better be careful who our friends are.

And then there is Twitter and blog comments and face to face and behind one's back where we can get our opinions, good or bad, out in public. Sometimes, we even give away new story ideas, just as we muse on our public forums, and we get burnt when somebody else beats us to the editor's desk and makes a sale out of our ideas.

Tsk, tsk.

We should know better. Putting our ideas, our very selves out there for anyone to see can be gratifying, but it can also be very dangerous.

Book reviewers have gotten some power by writing stinging reviews online. They might not be able to create any stories of their own, but they manage to put down new and established authors with what they consider sassy putdowns. In reality, they can dissuade a sale by totally misreading a novel and trashing it online. If they get personal, well, more than feelings can get hurt.

And then there are the private little wars that go on, with the supposed anonymity of the Internet. Well, any good detective can figure out who has been writing trash about them. And they can, in turn, trash that person online somewhere, anywhere. And a battle can be made very public that ought never to have been joined. In public!!!

How to prevent this?

Simple. Remember Thumper from *Bambi*? He says, "If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all."

Editors and agents might or might not run right over to their laptop and look for your blog. They might Google you, pick up some quote of yours that wasn't meant for their eyes, but it will burn a hole in their brain and brand you as well. You don't want that to happen, whether an unpublished writer or multi-published author. Before you trash somebody or something online, anywhere, think really hard. Ask yourself if the comment is worthy of you, your reputation, or the front page of the *New York Times*.

If in doubt, don't do it. Remember, you can unscrew a light bulb....

Jersey born and bred, Irene Peterson comes from the center of the state where all the pools are above ground and all the front doors come from Home Depot.

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Book Trailers by Rayna Vause



Book Trailers are a fun tool that you can use to help promote your books. The point of a trailer is the same as that of a movie trailer. You want to give a taste of the plot, mention some of the high points of the story, and tease your viewer into finding out more or even—better buying the book. Trailers don't have to be elaborate, they don't have to cost you a fortune, and making one doesn't necessarily require a great deal of technical skill. So where do you start?

First, you'll want to sit down and outline the major plot points that you want to highlight. Your trailer probably won't be much longer than a minute or two at the most, so like that dreaded synopsis, you have to make sure you make an impact in as concise a manner as possible. Some people even sketch preliminary story boards of what their trailer will look like and lay out the tag lines for each "scene" in the trailer.

Your next step will be finding the right graphics and music. This can be a little time consuming since there are tons of stock photos and royalty free music sites to dig through to find just the right photo or song. Below are some sites that I use to find these items; however, if you do a net search you'll find there are many different sites that you can use.

Images: istockphoto.com, Fotolia.com

Music: Incompetech.com

Another option is to take your own photos for the scenes in your trailer.

So, we have the music and graphics, now what? Well, there are a number of options in regard to putting the trailer together. They run the gambit from freeware to paying a designer to create one for you. Let's start with the most basic option. There are sites like One True Media or Slideroll where you can upload graphics and

create a video montage or slideshow. This can all be done online and it's completely free. The downside of freeware programs of this sort is that they offer a very limited selection of what you can do with your video in regard to transitions, effects, etc.

Also, more often than not, there will be some sort of embedded logo from the site where you created the trailer that will always appear on your video. However, for something quick and easy, using one of these programs may be the best option for you.

Your next option is using PowerPoint. Inputting pictures and text, adding music and transitions can all be done very simply. PowerPoint is a pretty user friendly program and, again, if you need a step by step walk-through, you can do a web search and get all the information you need to put together a great slide show. Once you've completed your PowerPoint trailer you're going to have to convert it to an .avi, .mov, or .wmv. However, Borders now requires trailers to be in an .flv format. At this point, they are the exception rather than the rule, but these things can change quickly.

Most other sites like You Tube or Myspace require that your video be in one of the previously mentioned formats. There are a few others sites you can use to display your completed trailer, but You Tube and Myspace are generally your best bet.

If you're using PowerPoint, that means you're going to need a conversion program. One to try is PowerVideoMaker by PresenterSoft (<http://www.presentersoft.com/powervideomaker.htm>). Another program to look at is PPT2Video Converter by ACoolSoft. I know I'm sounding like a broken record here, but a web search on the phrase "convert powerpoint to .avi" or any of the other file formats will pull up a number of these products.

Many of these companies will have a free trial that you can use. A word of warning about free trials; they will sometimes stamp your trailer with their logo which really isn't something you want. However, if you opt to purchase one of these programs, some of them are very reasonably priced and from there on out you can make as many trailers as you want.

Another option is to use Microsoft Movie Maker or Photo Story to create your trailer. Both of these programs are free. Movie Maker should be on your computer if you have Windows Service Pack 2 or higher for Windows 2000. You can download Photo Story at this link:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.aspx>

Both of these programs work in a fashion similar to PowerPoint. You insert your graphics and text and add your music. There is some basic music included in both of these programs. The only limitation to these programs is the nature of transitions, etc. and the fact that these programs create .wmv files (Windows Movie files). If the video upload site you choose to use doesn't accept .wmv files, you're going to have to do additional conversions.

The easiest, but probably most expensive of the options, is to pay someone to design a trailer for you. Many web design companies will also offer trailer design as a service. Some of the trailers employ still images combined with music. The more expensive trailers feature live action and actors.

If you do go this route, I would suggest visiting various author sites. It's an excellent way to gather a list of designers and you can then visit the designer's website and view their portfolio, this way, when you are ready to build your own site and/or trailer, you will have a few designers in mind who have a style that you really like.

Rayna Vause has a B.A. in English creative writing. She earned additional degrees in computer information systems and is working on degrees in computer graphics and vascular technologies. She currently works as a freelance website designer. Her debut novel ONLY IN HER DREAMS was released by The Wild Rose Press. For more information on Rayna please visit www.RaynaVause.com.

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Social Media Promotion by Caridad Piñeiro



My friend [Rayna Vause](#) and I were recently at the Moonlight & Magnolias conference in Atlanta to give a workshop on publicity and promotion in cyberspace. One of the topics we discussed was Social Media and how to use it to help build your brand online.

Many people express major concerns about the time demands of being in so many places online. It's a truly valid concern. With so many authors still holding down jobs and/or accommodating the needs of family, spending time on the web and social media sites can be a major time suck, especially when you're also trying to write a book.

But it is possible to use technology to alleviate some of the demands of Social Media promotion. If you've got a blog—Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace—it's possible to automate many of these applications so that your content will be available on all of them with minimal work. How do you do that?

Feed your blog to your Twitter, Facebook, and/or Myspace pages:

Both Twitter and Facebook allow you to feed content automatically from your blog. In Facebook, find your NOTES section and you will see a spot where you can add your blog feed to bring it into your Facebook profile. With Twitter, you can use [Twitterfeed](#) to automatically post your blog content as a tweet. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a similar application for Myspace, but it is possible to create a widget for your blog feed that you can embed on your Myspace page or in other applications that accept Widgets. I've used Spring Widgets and find their RSS feed widget very handy.

Feed your Twitter, Facebook, and/or Myspace to each other:

It's possible to feed your various tweets, status changes, etc. from one Social Media site to another. To feed your Facebook status to Twitter and vice versa, you can use this Twitter application on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/search/?q=twitter&init=quick#/apps/application.php?id=2231777543&ref=search&sid=1130005412.376077238..1>

To feed your Tweets to Myspace, you can try out this application: <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=463617608>

Keeping track of your Social Media Sites:

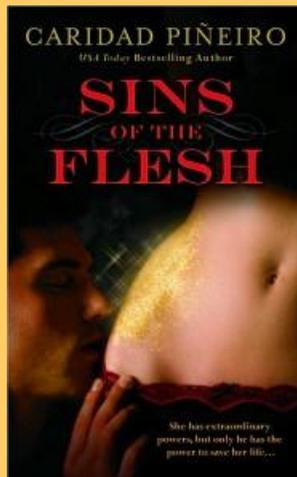
There are a number of applications that will allow you to view and take action on your various sites at once. Two of the more popular and useful applications are [TWEETDECK](#) and [HOOTSUITE](#).

Tweetdeck is a desktop application that will allow you to see tweets, respond, retweet, as well as view your Facebook and Myspace content. Hootsuite is a web-based application that also does much of the same, but also allows you to schedule tweets. A great ability to have if you must get information out but know in advance that you will not have access to the web.

I hope you found this tip helpful and that it will help you avoid the possible time suck of Social Media.

Caridad Pineiro is the USA TODAY and NY Times bestselling author of twenty-one novels. In 2007, a year marked by six releases from Harlequin and Pocket Books, Caridad was selected as the 2007 Golden Apple Author of the Year by the New York City Romance

Writers. Caridad's novels have been lauded as the Best Short Contemporary Romance of 2001 in the NJ Romance Writers Golden Leaf Contest, Top Fantasy Books of 2005 and 2006 by CATALINA Magazine and Top Nocturne of 2006 by Cataromance. Caridad continues her successful THE CALLING vampire series in 2009 with HONOR CALLS and FURY CALLS. Caridad will also release her first single title romantic suspense novel — SINS OF THE FLESH - in November 2009 from Grand Central Publishing. For more information on Caridad, please visit www.caridad.com or www.thecallingvampirenovels.com



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The Art of Contract Negotiation: An Essential Skill for Writers by Tina Sickler, a/k/a Tina Gabrielle

Editor's note: This article was originally published by an RWA® group, but has pertinent information for Liberty States FW. It's not just for women. 😊



We've heard it before: Women earn less money and benefits than their male counterparts. But the question is why? I believe the answer lies in the fact that women tend to shy away from negotiation. Women who do ask for more money or benefits are often viewed by society as overly aggressive or pushy. Overwhelmingly romance writers are women who will find these essential skills valuable and advantageous.

As an attorney, I have had the benefit of hours of negotiation training and have negotiated scores of civil settlements. Negotiation is a craft that is learned that can help with every facet of a writer's career, especially with agent and publishing contracts. Here are some tips:

- 1. Don't be afraid to ask.** I know as well as the next writer how hard it is to get "The Call." I received many rejections before I sold my first book. We are all hesitant to ask for anything after waiting so long, and we feel we should be eternally grateful. But asking does not mean we aren't grateful. To the contrary, asking means we are taking our writing careers seriously and that we are intelligent businesswomen who intend to be successful in this profession.
- 2. Be Prepared.** Research is key. As members of RWA, we have excellent resources. The RWA website as well as the monthly *Romance Writer's Report* magazine have excellent articles regarding contract clauses and both are a wealth of information. Both the RWA national conference and chapter conferences have offered workshops on contracts. Search the internet to determine what is standard in the industry. Ask fellow authors what is in their contracts and what clauses in particular they negotiated. Gathering as much information as possible is the best strategy.
- 3. Create a script in advance.** Before you call or meet with the editor or agent, you should have a mental

outline of what you want. Items in that outline should include: your wish list; your reality list; and a deal breaker item, if there is one.

4. Develop options. Understand in advance that you will not get everything you ask for.

I'm not just talking about money here—there's so much more to a contract. There are publishers that do not negotiate royalties or advances. This does not mean, however, that you cannot negotiate other sections of the contract to your benefit. What about the author's grant of rights, for example, foreign rights? Publisher option clauses? Basket accounting? Author's rights of reversion in case of publisher bankruptcy? Or even more basic, what about more free and discounted author copies? And as for agent contracts, what about the interminable agency clause? There are many more, but that fertile topic is fodder for another article.

5. Know your negotiation power. This is critical. If you are unpublished and you get an offer from an agent or editor, you have significantly much less negotiation power than a *NY Times* Bestseller. This does not mean you have no power, but you must keep what you do have in perspective. An unpublished author cannot insist on a six figure deal and a cross-country book tour. That is demanding and unprofessional.

6. Stay Unemotional. I know. This is your baby. You have spent countless hours polishing the first page, let alone the first chapter. But remember that publishing is a business. The agent or editor is interested in selling your book and making money, not handing out tissue boxes. The most effective negotiators are the unemotional ones.

7. Take a time out. Don't agree to anything immediately. Wait at least a day, preferably more, to think things through and clear your mind. Talk to other writers. Your spouse. Your critique partner. Your attorney, if necessary. That means if you get "The Call" and are jumping up and down with joy, do not agree to the representation or sign on the dotted line without waiting the requisite time period. After you calm down, you will be able to look at the fine print with different eyes.

8. Be professional. Ask, don't demand. Start out by saying, "I have a few concerns with the language of the contract..."

You'd be surprised what you can accomplish. Even if you do not get everything you hope for, you let industry professionals know that you are serious about your career and your books, and that you are an author who is a worthwhile investment.

Tina Sickler, a/k/a Tina Gabrielle, an LSF member, is a former engineer and attorney who's first Regency-set Historical, LADY OF SCANDAL, was released in September 2009 by Kensington/Zebra Books. The second book in the series, A PERFECT SCANDAL, is an anticipated 2010 release. Visit her website at www.tinagabrielle.com



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