

Liberty States Fiction Writers

New York - New Jersey - Pennsylvania



February 2010

Volume 2, Number 2

Let Freedom Ring!

www.lsfwriters.com

**Liberty States
Fiction Writers
PO Box 2914
Westfield, NJ 07090**

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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)

Please send information, news, and articles for the newsletter to the appropriate assistant editor (listed below) if one is specified and to Anne Walradt – newsletter@lsfwriters.com

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Road Story: Karen Bostrom - bostromk@yahoo.com

Member Spotlight: Kiersten Krum - kksquard@gmail.com

Contests, Conferences, and Classes: Monica Liming - mjliming@comcast.net

Author Spotlight: Kathye Quick - KathyeQ@aol.com

President's Column



February is the shortest month of the year, and this will probably be one of the shortest columns that I've done. Last year we had so much to accomplish and share with you. One year later I find that we have either reached our goals or are well on the way to seeing our vision come to fruition.

I've talked about our "radio program" in several of my columns. Well, it looks like we have all the pieces in place, and we've had several people step up to do the interviews. In the near future we should have the first program up on the website so keep your eye open for that event.

“Writing every day is a way of keeping the engine running, and then something good may come out of it.”

T.S. Eliot

★Articles★

Click on Title to Access Article

President's Column

Basic Tips for Social Network Sites
by Penny Sansevieri
The Book Marketing Expert

Paranormal Creatures by
Kathy Kulig

Let's Be Critical by Irene
Peterson

On Werewolves, Vamps,
and Other Oddities of the
Night by Melina Morel

A Down and Dirty Guide to
Writing Mysteries by Mary
Kennedy

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Read More . . .

Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting of the Liberty States Fiction Writers is on February 13th at the Edison Public Library on Plainfield Avenue.

What would your hero do if a villain held a knife to his throat?

Kick-Butt Heroes: Using Martial Arts in Your Action Scenes

Find out at February's meeting. Add authenticity to your action scenes with accurate information on the Martial Arts as presented by Kathy Fawcett and Melinda Leigh. Kathy and Melinda will demonstrate techniques to get your hero/heroine out of sticky situations. They'll give an overview of different martial arts styles, cover basic fight terminology and explain techniques your characters can use to defend themselves against punches, kicks and weapons. The workshop will also cover common pitfalls to avoid when writing action scenes.



Kathy Fawcett is a shodan (1st grade black belt) in Isshinryu Karate and helps run her husband's dojo, the NJ Academy of Martial Arts, located in Lebanon, NJ. She writes paranormal romances and loves kick butt heroes and heroines.



Melinda Leigh holds a 1st degree black belt in American Kenpo Karate and trains with Amerikick Karate Studios in Marlton, NJ. She writes romantic suspense and loves to incorporate aspects of Martial Arts in her writing.

Roundtable Sessions

Our Roundtable Sessions will be on **Publishing Industry Updates** and **Critiques**. For the Critique Roundtable Session, please bring 10 (ten) copies of 5 (five) pages from the work you wish to discuss, as well as any pitch you would like to try out. If you are a published author and would like

to assist with the pitches and critique sessions, please contact Lois Winston, our Program Chair.

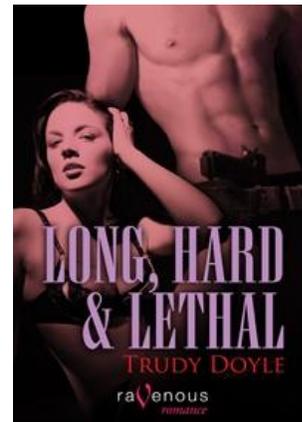
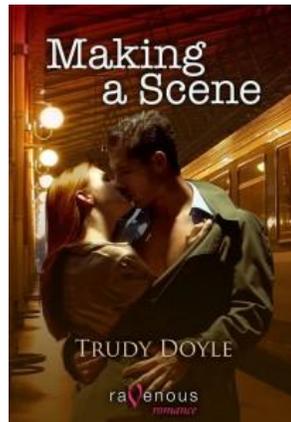
Networking and Snacks

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

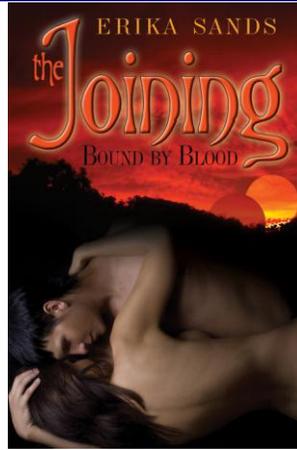
Author Spotlight



Trudy Doyle is the author of three books by Ravenous Romance, *Making a Scene* and *Long Hard & Lethal*, and her latest novel, *The Lady's Choice*, which has been featured on the Home Shopping Network's "Escape With Romance" promotion, a collection of best-selling Ravenous titles. Her new short story for Ravenous, "Welcome to the Jungle, Baby," is due to be released in December 2009, and her previous short, "The Virgin Principle," continues to be one of their all-time bestselling titles. In addition to LSFW, she's a long-time member of the Romance Writers of America, and blogs at www.trudydoyle.wordpress.com.



Linda J. Parisi found her calling when as a scientist, she discovered romance. Her idea of the perfect hero is a cross between Frank Langella's Dracula and his Zorro; tall, dark, handsome, and untamable. Her heroines will never give up or give in, so the sparks continue to fly through her books until her characters reach their happy ending. The road might not be easy but the fun is in the travel. She's been a member of New Jersey Romance Writers and Romance Writers of America since 1993 and is now a member of Liberty States Fiction Writers. During the day she's a research scientist and project manager for a diagnostic technologies company. But at night? At night, she gets to play with vampires.



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Meeting Review

“Creative Deleting” by Lisa Dale

What exactly does it mean when a reader says the writing is not “tight”? What are we to make of vague comments that writing doesn’t “sparkle” or “grab”? Often, these complaints are inspired by a weak word count-to-meaning ratio. Using the backspace button isn’t failure—it’s a creative act that empowers your word choices and energizes your prose. Learn a simple “equation” that evaluates the power and effectiveness of your sentences. Then, learn techniques of creative deleting that show how less is more.



About Lisa Dale: A lifelong bookworm, Lisa Dale is a firm believer that there are few things in life better than curling up with a novel and a cup of tea. Lisa grew up in rural Northwestern New Jersey before attending McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She worked briefly in publishing before going back to school to get an MFA in fiction at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Over the years, Lisa has had a number of jobs to subsidize her love of writing. She has worked as a tomato-picker, a babysitter, a college writing professor, a hardware store clerk, a title searcher, an SAT tutor, a barista, a junior literary agent, a handywoman, a real estate acquisitions agent, a public relations intern, a freelance editor, a waitress (twice), a clerk at a bakery, an assistant editor of a literary magazine, and she can’t remember what else. A former assistant editor of *The Literary Review* and nominee for Best New American Voices and the Pushcart Prize, her writing appears in many literary magazines, such as *Fourth Genre*, *Flyway*, *Fugue*, *Sou’wester*, *The Southeast Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Many Mountains Moving*, and more. She currently lives with her boyfriend in Northern New Jersey (exit 16W—as the joke goes). Lisa writes for Grand Central Publishing. SIMPLE

WISHES was released last January. IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT was a November 2009 release.

Guest speaker podcast info:

The podcast for January is not available due to technical difficulties. We apologize for this and will shortly provide a detailed recap of the January meeting. This recap will be available on the website.

To listen to any of the other monthly meeting podcasts, 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



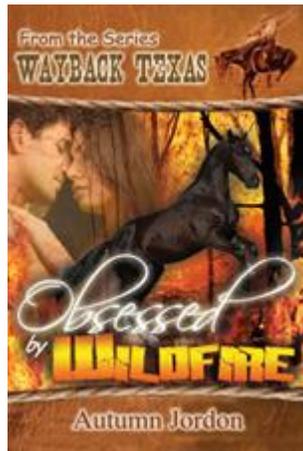
Cris Anson is pleased to announce the sale of PUNISHMENT AND MERCY to Ellora's Cave. PUNISHMENT is wildly different from her contemporary DANCE books—it's a ménage set in 1694 Massachusetts Bay Colony. Cris's editor said, "I don't know where this story came from in your mind, but I can only say that it reads as inspired. The way you've done the voice of the characters, the absolute 'feel' of the piece—it's amazing!" Oh, yeah, she also says "And, boy oh boy, is this a hot one!"



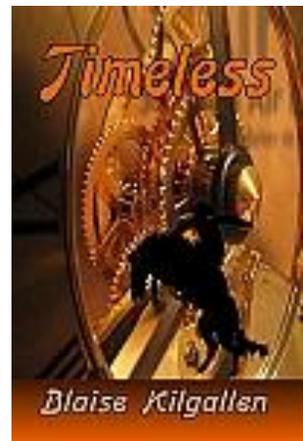
Anne Frazier Walrad will present a workshop "Secrets of the Ha-Ha Sisterhood: The Community of Women's Humor" at Maumee Bay Resort (Oregon, OH) for "A Writing Retreat: In the Company of Women" on April 16-18, 2010. Registration is limited: <http://www.bigwits.com/MAUMEE> general info.htm



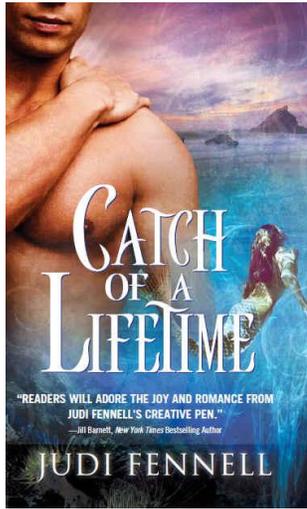
Joanna Aislinn received her first review at Amazon and it was 5 stars. [Click here to read it.](#)



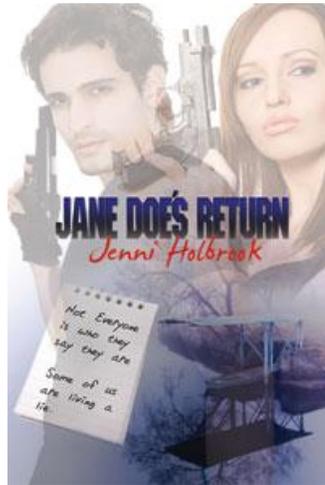
Autumn Jordan's OBSESSED BY WILDFIRE was released on January 27th by Wild Rose Press.



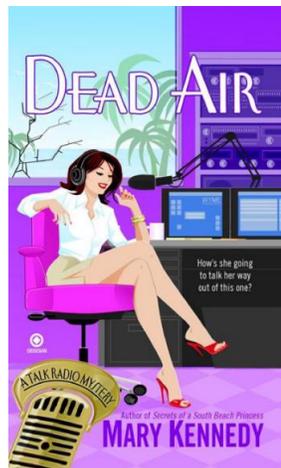
Blaise Kilgallen's TIMELESS was released on January 15 by Class Act Books. The sequel to "TIMELESS" -- "CADY'S STORY" -- will be released on March 15th.



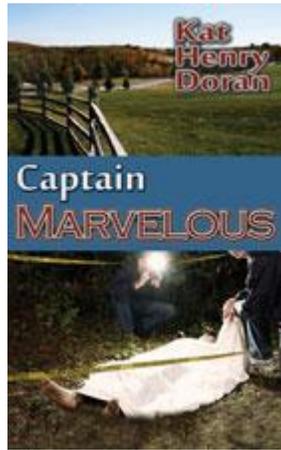
Judi Fennell's third Mer story, **CATCH OF A LIFETIME**, is up for Best Book on Long and Short Reviews.



Jenni Holbrook is teaching an on-line class about Pitching and Synopsis writing at HCRW in February. Registration is still open. I'm really looking forward to teaching. This is my favorite topic. For more information, please visit <http://www.heartofcarolina.org/>



Mary Kennedy was interviewed by Jean Henry Meade. You can [click here](#) for the interview.



Kat Henry Doran was recently interviewed by the Rochester Romance Novel Examiner. You can [click here](#) to read the interview.



Lori Varallo has released her first article at the Examiner. [Please click here](#) to read it.



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

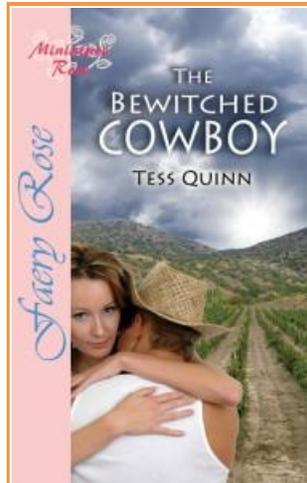
Password: Isfwmember

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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Member Releases

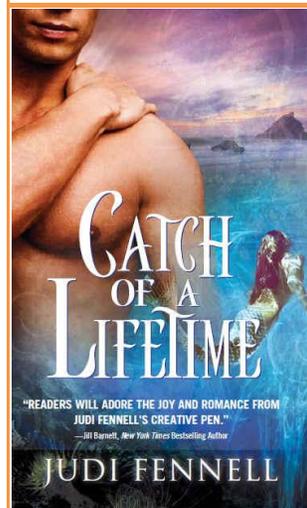


THE BEWITCHED COWBOY

by Tess Quinn

Wild Rose Press

The last thing Matt expected his twin to tell him was that he had to marry the woman of his parents' choice or suffer the loss of his powers. Destiny, a PhD and successful parapsychology writer, certainly did not expect her mother to tell her that she would die if she didn't get married to a man chosen for her at infancy. The collision of two hard-headed, anti-marriage witches makes Destiny and Matt's first encounter explosive. Now, they have to figure out a way to get along for the two weeks they can't be separated without doing the one thing that could change their fate forever...falling in love.



CATCH OF A LIFETIME

by Judi Fennell

Sourcebooks

She's on a mission to save the planet... Mermaid Angel Tritone has been researching humans from afar, hoping to find a way to convince them to stop polluting. When she jumps into a boat to escape a shark attack, it's her chance to pursue her mission, but she has to keep her identity a total secret...When he finds out what she really is, they're both in mortal danger... For Logan Hardington, finding a beautiful woman on his boat is surely not a problem—until he discovers she's a mermaid, and suddenly his life is on the line...



THE FIEND OF WHITE BUCK HALL

by Penelope Marzec
New Concepts Publishing

Information coming shortly! This paranormal historical fantasy romance will be released on February 3.

If you have an upcoming release, please send your title, cover, release date and short blurb to Caridad Pineiro @ cpsromance@att.net so that we can include the release in the newsletter and on the website.

Member Spotlight

GOOD LUCK **by Cris Anson**

The New Year brings on a sort of introspection in most of us, and I've been thinking about luck. Not the Friday the 13th kind of bad luck that's the stuff of legends and B movies. To me Friday the 13th has meant good luck ever since I met my husband on one of those star-crossed days a long, long time ago.

Okay, so we only had some twelve years together before he died, but I was fortunate enough to be struck by Cupid's dart twice and I spent another twenty-two years with Real-Life Hero #2 before he, too, passed.

But as I muse on this humongous circle from then to today, I realize that this date has been good luck for me, in the way making a silk purse out of a sow's ear is good. Unlikely, but good. Because of that first traumatic loss way back when, I began a diary, in a shorthand notebook, wherein I raged at God and the world, where I poured out my heart and transferred all my emotion from brain to pen to page (yes, this was before I owned a typewriter, never mind a computer).

One day I looked back at all I had written and realized there was a story there. Somewhere. A story that, having bought a used IBM Selectric (remember them? With the bouncing ball of type?), I began pulling out of my brain. Elite 12 type much smaller than the Courier 10 of traditional submissions, 512 pages' worth squeezed 27 lines per page—probably in the neighborhood of 130,000 words, but who knew to count?—I shipped it off with a feeling of accomplishment.

Can you say "crushed"? I was, when I promptly received a rejection that said it sounded like...a diary. A story needed a beginning, a middle and an end, it said, and yours had nothing but rambling. Unsaid was, "and don't bother us

again.”

After crying and moping for several days (“this is REAL LIFE! A story doesn’t get any more emotional than this!”) I noticed the local community college offered an evening writing class, so I paid my tuition and went. Talk about eye-opener. When I read parts of this rejected masterpiece to the class, one of the critiquers said, “I was bored.”

I was crushed. Again.

So began a long journey to publication. Twelve years of assiduously applying butt to chair; of joining writers’ groups and critique groups; of learning about scene and sequel, plot, characterization and all the other components of good writing; of form-letter rejections (one recipient even sent back my SASE with a stamped “No thanks” on the envelope and nothing inside), then of more personal rejections like “This isn’t right for us, but send me the next thing you write,” and finally, ACCEPTANCE!

Everyone’s path is different—through life, to publication. What I’ve learned in both cases, every aspiring author has probably heard time and time again. Never. Give. Up. I gave up writing at least a score of times, both before and after *The Call*. Ask Kathye Quick, who was my critique partner for more than half a dozen years, both before and after our first sales.

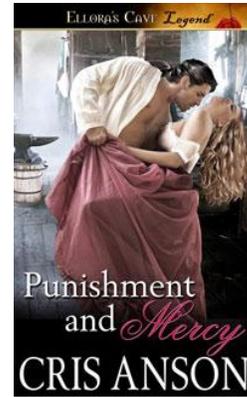
After #2 beloved died, I didn’t write for two years. Couldn’t get excited over some fictional person’s problems or love life. When I felt strong enough to retire from my day job, which had given me a reason to get up every morning, I slogged through another year of...nothing. Oh, sure, I *read* 226 books that year, but didn’t start writing again until the sun began shining longer into the afternoon of Spring 2009 and I realized I must have had Seasonal Affective Disorder (blame anything except myself for not writing!).

So in my latest renaissance, I finished Rolf’s story (DANCE OF THE ROGUE, the youngest of the Thorvald brothers in my DANCE series that started in January 2005), and it’s received 5-star reviews since its release last September. I’ve also managed to write a book in a totally different genre. PUNISHMENT AND MERCY, just released January 20, takes place in 1694 Massachusetts Bay Colony. Please permit me to brag about this one. My editor said: “Everything about this story is just so ‘right,’ Cris – the pacing, the characters, the intensity, the emotions, the mood of the period, and god, the sex! With each story you’ve amazed me more, and this one has left me all but speechless.”

I have come full circle. I’m writing again, I’m out in the world and looking for love again, and I’m enjoying life again. Because luck is what you make it.

*In addition to her five erotic romance novels, **Cris Anson** also has “Quickies” in two Ellora’s Cave anthologies and two mainstream novels with their sister imprint, Cerridwen Press. Read blurbs and excerpts of all her books on her website, www.crisanson.com. For a more informal look at Cris, go to*

www.myspace.com/crisanson.



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Road Story

My Long and Winding Road by Nancy Quatrano

I'm a published short story writer working on a mystery series. My first success on the long and winding road to publication happened when I was thirteen, thrilled that my Letter to the Editor appeared in the *Lakewood Daily News*. My words attracted a great many retorts, and I discovered the power of words and feelings.

Poetry and lyrics became the expression of my teenage madness. A professional musician at the age of 16, some of those lyrics made me a few dollars. Neither Carly Simon nor Joni Mitchell lost a chart position because of me, but they were my idols. I would change the world with my words and my music. But the world didn't change, and at the age of twenty-two that career was over when I ruptured a vocal cord. Completely disillusioned with life, love, and lyrics, I learned to type and became a legal secretary.

In 1984, I was in my mid-thirties, had two babies, a horrible marriage, and no hope. I found an Underwood typewriter in the garbage and hauled it home one day in the baby carriage when my spouse was out. The "W" didn't work, but over the course of six months, I typed a three-hundred page manuscript on it anyway. I had no idea what I was doing, but it kept me sane. And somewhere in the typing, the writing, the retyping and the rewriting, I found hope.

In 1993, in a new life, with a new husband and quickly maturing children, I discovered I still yearned to write creatively. That desire led me to an adult education teacher who pointed me in the direction of the New Jersey Romance Writers. And that was where the possibility of becoming a professional writer became a reality for me. I wrote and practiced the craft of writing. I rewrote and struggled with the craft of editing. I entered contests and

learned the power of rejection.

At NJRW, there were many contest opportunities and I participated in most of them. Published authors and talented editors gave freely of their precious knowledge. I learned about letting trusted, knowledgeable people read my work and give me feedback on it. I discovered that there are such things as damaging critiques; but more importantly, I was blessed with people who taught me the value of good critique partners and writing mentors, most of whom I still work with today.

In 1999, I sold my first romantic short story entitled, "Scrumptious Saturday" to Pisces Press for a book entitled *Romance Recipes for the Soul*. I got that "call" the week before Christmas just as I was heading home from Christmas shopping. I haven't been that excited about anything, except maybe the birth of my grandson, since that day.

After that first sale, my work has appeared in numerous newsletters and trade magazines, as well as short story publications from NJ to Florida. My short story, "Chasing the White Unicorn," was included in *Crime Scene NJ2* and won the Royal Palm Literary Award in 2006 for Best Published Short Story. My short romance, "Yellow Ribbons," won an Honorable Mention in the *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition in 2003 and was purchased by Wild Rose Press in 2005.

My completed novels, written by me solo or written with talented writing partners, have yet to be sold, but I'm still hopeful. And I'll continue along this long and winding road until the next "call" is received. I'm a professional writer and that is what writers do.

*A member of Liberty States Fiction Writers, **Nancy Quatrano** is awaiting the release of Crime Scene NJ III, in which she has three stories published. In addition to a full time day job, she runs a professional writing service that provides critique, coaching, and ghostwriting services, and continues work on selling her first mystery novel. She's on the steering committee of the Florida Writers Association—Ancient City Chapter; she's a member of Mystery Writers of America and the National Association of Professional Women.*



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★This Month's Articles★

President's Column Gail Freeman



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.

February is the shortest month of the year, and this will probably be one of the shortest columns that I've done. Last year we had so much to accomplish and share with you. One year later I find that we have either reached our goals or are well on the way to seeing our vision come to fruition.

I've talked about our "radio program" in several of my columns. Well, it looks like we have all the pieces in place, and we've had several people step up to do the interviews. In the near future we should have the first program up on the website so keep your eye open for that event.

There is only a little time left to sign up for our one day mini-conference. The deadline is February 14, 2010. The conference committee needs time to get all their ducks in a row and supply the hotel with numbers for the meals. If you're on the fence about attending, now is the time to make up your mind. Check the conference webpage to see the great line-up, as well as the editors and agents that are attending.

And while you're at it, have you renewed your membership? We hope so. It's given the Board a great deal of pleasure to see the renewals coming through. Really makes us feel as if we got something right.

Right now the Board is investigating venues for our street fair participation. We're looking into several spring events as well as events in the fall. These events not only promote our published authors but also our organization. We'd like to do a sampling throughout the state, so if your community has an affair that you feel might benefit Liberty, drop a note to any Board member and let us know. We'll look into it to see if it falls within our budget.

Speaking of budgets, at the last meeting the membership passed our annual budget to 2010. In 2009 we had hoped to have a positive balance of \$1000. Thanks to your membership dues we exceed that amount, and we were able to increase the budget from both our programs and our promotion of the chapter and our authors.

As always, we grow and prosper because of you, our membership. We are always looking for ideas. We can't promise to do everything, but we can promise to consider seriously each suggestion, so don't be shy.

Have a good month and GO WRITE!

Gail

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Basic Tips for

What Type of Content Works Best on Social Media Sites?

Social Networking Sites by Penny Sansevieri The Book Marketing Expert



Reprinted from "The Book Marketing Expert newsletter," a free ezine offering book promotion and publicity tips and techniques.
<http://www.amarketingexpert.com>

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If your goal is to build a presence on the Internet using free social networking sites, it's imperative that you provide the right kind of content for your audience to digest. This one tip can help you develop a loyal following that appreciates your message so much they help spread your links for you to other like-minded individuals.

Web-based social media content isn't the same kind of text that you would read in a professional publication. Your audience is used to verbiage more conversational in nature. You want to write as if you're having a one-on-one conversation with your reader, as I am to you right now.

Content on social media sites should also be provided in easily digestible chunks. See the paragraphs I've created here for you? They're not 20 lines deep. You don't want to try to post content that would rival a novel on one single social networking page. When you have that much content, you need to break it up into multiple pages, leading your reader from one to the next - or create an info product like an eBook and sell it or give it away from the pages you create.

Depending on your goal with using these Web 2.0 social sites, you may want to practice the art of using teasers with your audience. A good teaser provides just enough value to your reader to make them believe they didn't waste time reading your work - but it leaves them wanting a little more, which is why they'll click through on your hyperlinks and buy your products or services.

Good social media content answers questions or solves problems that your audience has. You can use free keyword tools to figure out how consumers are searching on Google and create content online that uses those keywords and makes your Web 2.0 masterpieces "findable" on the 'Net.

### Facebook Frenzy

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Are you on Facebook yet? No? Why not? Or maybe you're on Facebook and not sure what to do now that you're there. Well, check out these recent stats (courtesy of Marketingsavant.com):

- * As of 2/14/09 Facebook has 175,000,000 active users
- * Facebook grows by well over 600,000 users per day
- * If Facebook were a country it would now be the 6th most populated country in the world
- * The fastest growing segment are women over 55 (up 175% according to this report)
- * Women dominate Facebook (meaning there are more women than men on Facebook)

Tips for an effective Facebook page:

- Update frequently. Facebook is not the field of dreams, just because you

built it doesn't mean people will beat a path to your door

- Use it to post events, updates on your book, product or message - keep your followers current about what's going on in your world. Don't tell us you just washed the dog.
- Facebook is not a way to push a message, but rather communicate *with* your market.
- Make sure your picture is current, don't use a logo - I tend to think that doesn't personalize your page enough. People want to see you, let them get to know who you are.

Six Quick Tips for Twitter Success

1. A bio is a must. A recent Harvard Business Review study showed that 82% of unsuccessful Twitter accounts have little or no bio information.
2. You should provide more than 3 links per 20 tweets and you should update more than once a day.
3. If you don't provide links in your tweets, you should plan to post more often (studies suggest as much as six times a day). You should have no more than 15 updates a day.
4. Twitter names are becoming like URL's were in the early years of the Internet. Make sure and grab all your branding and your name.
5. Don't use underscores_ when you're creating a user name. Not only does it look amateurish but a number of spammers have hacked into Twitter that way. You don't want to look like a spammer.
6. Always engage and reply to the @reply responses on Twitter. Why? Well first off it's important to engage your followers, but second, those @replies help with your Twitter ranking.

Reprinted from "The Book Marketing Expert newsletter," a free ezine offering book promotion and publicity tips and techniques.

<http://www.amarketingexpert.com>

From LSF Writers' Tech Gurus:

Some Twitter Lists so you can get started on your Social Media Networking:

List of Authors on Twitter:

<http://thebookexchange.net/Documents/AuthorsOnTwitter.pdf>

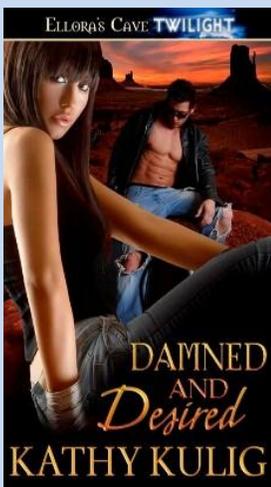
List of Libraries on Twitter:

<http://lindyjb.wordpress.com/2009/01/10/libraries-on-twitter-updated-list/>

Paranormal Creatures by Kathy Kulig



Kathy Kulig writes paranormal, contemporary and erotic romance. Her third novel Damned and Desired was released at Ellora's Cave on January 6th. It's the sequel to Desert of the Damned in her Demons in Exile series. At the 2010 Romantic Times Convention, Kathy will be participating on two workshop panels on "Building Paranormals from the Ground Up" and also "Twitter Unplugged." For more information, check out her website:
<http://www.kathykulig.com>



Vampires, werewolves, demons, gargoyles, evil ghosts, zombies and a number of other shapeshifting, life-sucking, creepy creatures have existed for centuries in ancient myths and legends. Somehow these beings managed to find their way into modern fiction. Thrilling, chilling, and sometimes sensual, there is something compelling about them.

Creatures of the night have always captured my imagination. I grew up with the old horror movies (and loved being scared), read ghost stories, watched the old *Twilight Zone* and *Outer Limits* while my parents were sleeping, and *Chiller Theater* when I babysat. Is it any surprise I write paranormal romance?

These old tales continues to reincarnate in movies and books. Look at JR Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood series, or Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series. *The Wolfman* will be coming out in theaters soon—again.

In Jonathan Maberry's book, *Vampire Universe*, he says, "The dark world of supernatural beings haunt us, hunt us, and hunger for us. Maybe it's the danger that makes these creatures so compelling. In this book I found a number of creatures and myths many have never heard of, and their story is begging to be told. Taking a twist on one of these myths or legends can be a great way to start off a new paranormal story or series. There is a Norwegian shapeshifting legend where a person can don the skin of any animal and can become that animal by sheer will. I used this myth in my novel *DAMNED AND DESIRED* from Ellora's Cave—although I took a slight twist saying the trait was a rare genetic trait passed down through the males in a family.

Here are some other strange and unusual examples that I pulled from Jonathan's book. Can you think of a twist to turn each into a story?

The **Aluqa** is a female demon who is both a succubus and a psychic vampire, tormenting her victims with sexual and mental attacks.

The **Canchu** of Pre-Columbian Peru seek out the strongest warriors, then sneak into their houses or tents at night and feed on their blood.

If you hear a strange call at night, often imitating a child's voice, you might be hearing a **Calling Ghost**. Calling Ghosts are found in many cultures: *Leanhaun-Sidhe* of Ireland, *Dames Blances* (White Ladies) of France, *Langsuir* of Java, *Ilimu* of Kenya, and *Otyiruru* of Namibia. These creatures lure humans to them with their call and drain them of their essence.

You may remember the **Grindylow** from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J.K. Rowling, but it has been a creature of folklore of Yorkshire, England for centuries. The Grindylow is a nasty marsh imp who waits for an unlucky traveler wandering too close to the edge of a swamp or pond. The Grindylow will then drag its victim down into the water and feast on human flesh.

How about a **Kwakwakalanooksiwae**? A legend from the Canadian Kwakiutl Indians. It's a creature that looks like a gigantic raven and can eat a man in

one bite.

A **Obayifo** is a living vampire and also a sorcerer or witch. She sheds her skin at night and travels the sky as a fireball. She's also a blood-sucker.

Rusulka is a mer-creature and not a nice one. She's a predator that will seduce men and carry them off to her domain, keeping them young and sexually entertained for many years. But when they return home they instantly age and crumble into dust.

These are just a small selection of the strange and unusual creatures of the night found in myth and folklore that might spark an idea and find their way into your next paranormal story. But Beware: Too much research may invade your nights and haunt your dreams.

Resources: *Vampire Universe* by Jonathan Maberry; *The Cryptopedia* by Jonathan Maberry and David F. Kramer; *Mythology, The Illustrated Anthology of World Myth and Storytelling* by Editor C. Scott Littleton.

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Let's Be Critical by Irene Peterson



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.

No! Wait, hang on a minute.

This is about critiquing, not criticizing!

There's a world of difference.

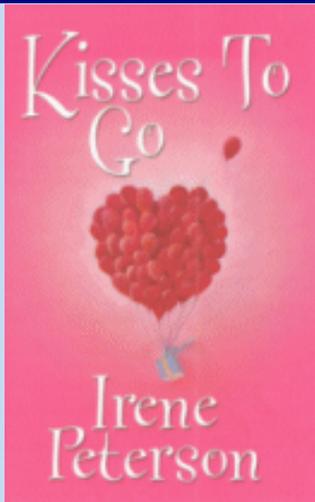
Let me go back. When I was a kid, my copy of *Little Women* pictured Jo, I assumed, sitting in a very drafty looking garret, munching on an apple while holding a quill pen over a sheet of paper. I had to ask my mother what a garret was. "We call ours an attic," she replied. Good, we had an attic, so I could be a writer. I needed an apple and a feathery pen (this was before BICs) and some paper and I could be a writer.

Well, it's hard to write on one's knees with a fountain pen because the paper slips and slides and the apple goo makes one's fingers sticky and attics can be really hot and dusty in August. So, I figured I really didn't have it in me to be a writer. Luckily, that didn't stop me from trying.

I wrote nearly every day from the time I was fifteen. Nobody read my stuff and that was fine. That way I knew it was absolutely perfect in every way, no matter how mundane or outright silly it was. Adolescent angst and Emily Dickinson notwithstanding, I knew my stuff was pure gold and continued to think so until someone dared read my stuff and, basically, called it *pathetic*.

What? My stuff, especially my fourth novel (a romance based on a particularly vivid dream) was twaddle? Common mistakes like headhopping? POV? Wuzzes?

Oh, dear. My first real critique and I'd bombed, big time. But my critiquer was



a kind lady who had been around the writing game a long time. She knew her stuff. Evidently, I didn't.

So I had my first taste of critiquing and realized, to my astonishment, that a degree in English, credits in journalism, and all those words from the garret or my desk weren't quite up to snuff. Not if I wanted to get published. I had to learn not to let more than one person think per sentence or paragraph. I had to learn to control who was the star of each scene, the person with the most to lose or the one with the most to gain. As for the wuzzes, well, putting in action words did make more sense and the story went faster and sounded so much more meaningful.

I had the honor of being asked to join a critique group and I accepted, still with the small idea that I actually knew something about writing. I'd learned my stuff and could hear it when others made those same mistakes. We met at one person's house, joked around, read each other's works and critiqued. It helped all of us. Nobody was offended, we worked out sticky parts in plots as well as small errors in our works. Eventually, the group grew, moved on, acquired new members and as long as we all did our parts, we all improved. Five of us have been published.

Here are specific rules for critiquing:

1. Be nice, but tell the truth.
2. Contribute, don't just take advice and not give any.
3. Listen carefully or read carefully, depending on how you handle the critiques. If they get sent by email, respond before the next meeting. If you read aloud, mark the hard copies with your thoughts. Be ready to discuss your points.
4. You may know something the writer doesn't know and can add tremendously to their work. Personal experience is often better and more reliable than mere Internet research.
5. Laugh at your own errors and decide for yourself whether the corrections you've been given are valid.
6. Try to get into a group with people at nearly the same stage of writing as you are. It's great to have a published author in the group, but don't depend on that.
7. Accept the fact that every word you write is not solid gold. Critiques are meant to help. Better a mistake caught by a friend than a partial tossed in the trash by an editor or agent.

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Vamps, and Other Oddities of the Night by Melina Morel



Melina Morel was born in New Jersey and lived here her whole life, except for the four years away from home in New York when she attended college. She had a typical Jersey childhood with summer vacations at the shore—before the age of the notorious Jersey Shore TV program. Reading always entertained her, especially reading about history and foreign countries. This led to some interesting foreign travel later on, which provided fodder for the first two historical novels she wrote twenty years ago. A long gap followed, during which she taught high school, wrote more, failed to publish anything for ages, and then in 2007 DEVOUR, her very first paranormal came out, followed in 2008 by PREY. SMOLDER just appeared in January, and she's working on another right now. The only thing she can say about getting published is very simple and straightforward: Be persistent. She should have given up years ago due to many rejections, but she never did. And now she's published three books in a genre she never knew existed

Writers are attracted to different genres based on life experience, literary tastes, plain old “I-just-like-it” and that telephone chat with the agent, which lets you know what’s hot and what’s not. I plead guilty to the last.

I’ve always loved history, and years ago I published two historical novels, but as time went on, I couldn’t sell anything in history, so one day my agent advised me to try werewolves or vampires since they were a hot topic. I was agreeable, but somewhat stymied by the fact that I didn’t know anything about them. “Well,” she said in that exasperated agent kind of way, “start reading.” This pushed me to do a lot of reading in the werewolf/vampire area—although of course, weres and vamps are quite different kinds of critters. Both can shapeshift but only one is undead. I tried reading books in the genre to figure out what the rules were and found that the rules are only semi-permanent. Some vamps can brave the sunlight, most can’t. Some can eat, most can’t. In other words, your vampires, your rules. Same thing with werewolves.

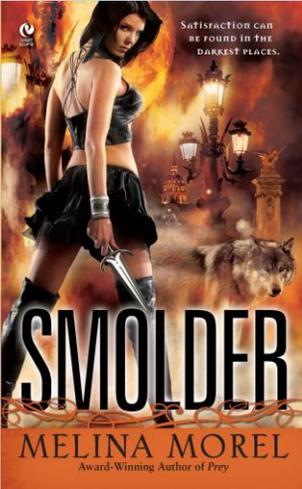
That gave me some leeway I thought, though, to some readers, certain things are more important than others. For example I don’t like vamps who can go out in the sun. Just my own taste here. Some of my were-creatures—like my Russian Blue werecats—can shapeshift fully clothed because of the largesse of ancient gods of the forest and the tundra. You go from fur to skin out there and you’ll die of the cold, so that made sense to me. My werewolves, on the other hand, have to get rid of their human clothes before shifting in keeping with the common custom.

Since wolves are pack animals, it seemed perfectly fine to continue that behavior into the werewolf world. My French pack has a top leader, the Lupus Magnus of all France, and the rest of the country is divided into smaller packs under the leadership of the Lupus Minor of the area. In SMOLDER, Gervais de Maury is the Lupus Minor of the Ile-de-France pack, top dog on his turf. Unfortunately for him, one of his neighbors is Catherine Marais, one of the country’s best werewolf hunters who works for the mysterious Institut Scientifique out of Geneva, dedicated to rooting out killer werewolves. The Institut has a strict policy of not killing unless necessary, but once the werewolf has attacked humans, he’s theirs, no holds barred.

My take on werewolves is my own. Some writers see them as the good guys, but I’ve chosen to make them the villains, with one exception so far. In SMOLDER, the young son of the Lupus Minor resents his genetic inheritance and resists the transformation, [spoiler coming up!] but in the end it overtakes him and he becomes what he was meant to be. Yet, werewolf or not, he’s no killer and this oddity brings down the fury of his father, the Lupus Minor, who doesn’t know how he got stuck with this weird pup. Teenagers! To make things more interesting, Catherine’s young niece has a crush on him. Both families have fits!

One of my favorite series about other people’s werewolves is the Kitty books by Carrie Vaughn. I just finished reading the newest one and loved it. Her werewolf is acutely sensitive to vibes from other creatures, even in human form and there are many scenes of Kitty fighting not to go werewolf in

when she wrote her first two.
Life is full of surprises.



response to provocation or the feeling of danger. I like this wolf. She's a fighter when she has to be, but she's definitely one of the good guys, a werewolf you can respect. Mine go back to the idea of the Big Bad Wolf, so I was probably deeply impressed with the childhood literature that has them lying in wait for Little Red Riding Hood. But there you are—your werewolves, your rules.

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A Down and Dirty Guide to Writing Mysteries

by Mary Kennedy



Okay, true confession time. I decided to write cozy mysteries because I'm not very good at plotting. Whoa! Does this sound counterintuitive to you?

Yes, it's true. When I wrote DEAD AIR, the first of the Talk Radio Mysteries, my whole publishing background was in middle grade fiction and YA for Scholastic and Penguin. All thirty-seven books.

I jumped into adult mysteries, feet-first, with two quotes in mind: "Desperation is the mother of invention," and "Ignorance is bliss."

How did I do it? By sheer instinct, and a rather clever little technique I use in my psychology practice. And I'm going to share it with you, right now! Think of it as "The Idiot's Guide to Plotting a Mystery." It's fun, it's easy and best of all, it really works.

1. First, let's get the characters pinned down. You need an engaging heroine, you know, someone intelligent, feisty, with a good sense of humor and a kickass ability to go after the bad guys.

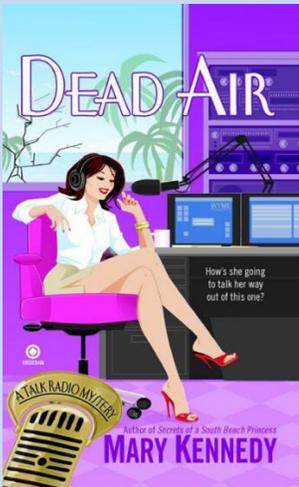
Next, you need a love interest. (Well, you don't have to, but I think it makes the book easier to sell.) Make sure you have some ongoing tension between them. After all, if they fall into each other's arms on page one, you'll never get a series out of this. It helps if the love interest is a cop, detective or PI. Why? Because he has contacts in law enforcement which will be helpful to the heroine in her amateur sleuthing.

2. Think series. Or if you can't think series, at least think trilogy. Why? They seem to be easier to sell. So when you write your proposal, make sure you add a line or two describing Book 2 and Book 3, along with your detailed synopsis of Book 1. Seriously, it only has to be a sentence. Just to show that you have some ideas for the series and you have plans for plots down the line.

If you're wondering about word count, mine are about 85k. I wouldn't go any longer than that. You want this puppy to sell!

Mary Kennedy is a national best-selling author and a clinical psychologist in private practice on the east coast. She has sold forty novels, all to major New York publishers, and has made the Waldenbooks, BookScan and Publishers Weekly best-seller lists. Currently she's writing an adult mystery series, The Talk Radio Mysteries, which is set in a fictional town in south Florida. The first title, DEAD AIR, (Penguin) was released this month. When not writing, speaking, or traveling to exotic locales, she lives with her husband and eight neurotic cats. The cats have resisted all her efforts to psychoanalyze them, but she remains optimistic.
www.marykennedy.net
Romantic Times says:

Floridians can claim another sleuthing marvel—and Kennedy has the beginning of a hit series. Charming, humorous, sassy psychologist Maggie Walsh is a cross between Carrie Bradshaw and Dr. Jennifer Melfi as she deals with flaky co-workers, a screen-siren mother, and the attentions of a sexy detective and a gorgeous hotelier. The plot lures the unsuspecting reader into the laid-back Florida coast before turning up the volume on the competitive world of new age gurus.



- Now, the mystery elements, I would have 5 or 6 suspects, make sure each one has MMO, motive means and opportunity. Editors like a rather detailed synopsis for mysteries, I've found.

It helps if the heroine has something at stake in solving the crime...you know how Miss Marple just solves crimes for the fun of it? Well, that's okay, but I think they like it better when there is something more at stake. Up the ante! In DEAD AIR, Maggie's roommate is charged with the murder of the Guru. So Maggie really has to jump in and solve the crime to save her roommate.

- Let the reader know the main character's thinking about the crime and the suspects. In DEAD AIR, Maggie reflects on the Guru's murder. He was a guest on her radio show and someone killed him that night in the hotel next door to her townhouse. Who wanted him dead? Hmmm. As it turned out, LOTS of people! And for different reasons...this will become apparent as Maggie starts her "sleuthing."

Maggie goes through all the suspects, two or three times in the book. Just to keep the reader up to speed, she says, "I thought it was XXX, but how could it be X, he has a rock solid alibi for that night. And then I thought it was Y, after all, the Guru screwed him out of a lot of money in a real estate deal, so he had a good motive...and then I thought it was Z, because after all, the Guru dumped her for someone else...etc., etc."

So keep the reader in the loop. As you near the end of the book, probably the last 1/4th, the heroine has a pretty good idea who the real killer is, and now she has to catch him in the act, or set him up, or get him to confess, or prove it by the evidence.

- And now, for the technique I borrowed from my psychology practice. This is what you need to do. Take a piece of paper and draw a circle with the victim's name in the middle. Now...draw lines going out from the circle like spokes in a wheel. This is how I keep track of all the "secondary characters" in my patients' lives. It helps to have a "visual." You're going to use it to keep track of your suspects.

In DEAD AIR, I wrote the name "Guru Sanjay" in the center of the circle and included all the "known" suspects, along with people who "could be" suspects: an ex-wife, a former business partner, a guy Sanjay cheated in a real estate deal, the woman who heads up the Guru's organization, a furious mother whose daughter was harmed by the Guru. And of course, Lark, Maggie's roommate. You know one of them has to be the killer, but you have to drag out the suspense.

- Now, write down MMO for each one. In case you're wondering, the "sweet young thing" Lark, did have a motive. She went to the Guru's hotel room to get her book autographed and he made a clumsy pass at her. Not enough motive for murder...but she was the last one to see him alive, and she does have a history of violence when provoked (she attacked a guy in a bar...as described in earlier e-mail). Draw a double line from the center of the circle to Lark...why a double line? Because she is a strong suspect (even though you and I and the readers know she couldn't have done it, because she is Maggie's roommate.)

7. Okay, now take a look at the other suspects. How does Maggie find out about them? Don't forget the police only have ONE suspect...Lark. So it's up to Maggie to find these new suspects, and she does, by nosing around. If you read DEAD AIR, you'll see that she immediately goes to the scene of the murder...the Seabreeze Inn, right next door.

While at the Seabreeze, Maggie meets Miriam, the long-suffering manager of Team Sanjay...she was with Sanjay from the beginning, underpaid, middle-aged, overworked, under appreciated. Maggie thinks that Miriam might resent the Guru, and maybe even be angry enough to kill him? But what would her motive be? She was the second in command...how would his death benefit her?

And so on. Maggie meets one person who tells her something about another person...who leads her to a third person. The clues keep piling up. (That's why you have to step back and have the main character grab a pen and paper and write down the suspects, and how viable are they as a suspect.) If you don't do this, the reader will get lost.

Maggie is doing all this "sleuthing" without the cops. Yes, she sees a hunky detective from time to time, but they have an ongoing friendly disagreement about forensic psychology vs "detective work." He thinks forensic psychology is psychobabble and he begs Maggie to stay out of the investigation. It's good to have some off-again, on-again gimmick going, because otherwise they will fall into each others arms right away, and there goes the love interest!

8. The main thing to remember, is that Maggie acquires this information, bit by bit, throughout the book. The clues pile up, one by one. She has a valid reason for pursuing each lead. You might wonder why she doesn't just take this information to the police...sometimes she asks herself that, but then she remembers the cutting remarks the hunky detective makes and how he believes her psychological insights are all bogus.

Mysteries are load to fun to write, the market is still strong, and I know there's a spot for you! Just try my method and drop me a line if you feel inclined. I'd love to know if it works for you.

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★This Month's New and Noteworthy★

★New and
Noteworthy
Publishing News★

[Click on Title to Access Article](#)

Contests

DEADLY INK SHORT STORY CONTEST 2010

Books-A-Millions Comps
Down

Borders Makes a Deal With
Alex Reader

Vampires and Other
Creatures Rule Bestseller
Lists

DMC Launching Line of E-
readers

Google Claim Process
Simplified

Robert Parker Dies at Desk

MWA Announces 2010
Edgar Nominees

LOVE STORY Author Erich
Segal Dies

Bloomsbury Whitewashes
Cover Again

Bloomsbury Apologizes and
Will Change Cover

Borders Lays Off 10% of
Corporate Staff

JD Salinger Dies

New Crop of E-Readers

Amazon Pulls McMillan
Books from Shelves

RWA Changes Eligibility for
Publishers/Authors

★**Current
Bestsellers**★

Click on Name to Access List

Booksense Indie
Bestsellers
NY Times Bestsellers
Publishers Weekly

Entries postmarked between June 1, 2009, and February 15, 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>.

Valley Forge Romance Writers

2010 THE SHEILA Contest

OPEN FOR ENTRIES ON JANUARY 10, 2010

New for 2010: Finalist revisions! Finalists will have a week after notification to submit a revised entry for review by the final round judges.

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than February 13, 2010, 11:59 p.m., eastern standard time.

Submissions: Total of 35 pages, including synopsis (not to exceed 5 pages).

Judging: Entrants will receive a detailed score sheet from four qualified judges including, whenever possible, at least one published author. The lowest score will be dropped before determining the final score. The top five entries in each category will advance to the finals.

ENTRY FEE:

- \$25 for all VFRW members / \$30 for all non-VFRW members.

- For non-electronic payment methods, contact the contest chair (contest@vfrw.com) before February 1, 2010, to make arrangements. Only money orders will be accepted.

- All entry fees are non-refundable except in the case of category cancellation, as stated above.

- If you have any questions, please email contest@vfrw.com.

For detailed Rules and Entry Form, visit our website:

<http://www.vfrw.com/contest>

QUESTIONS: Contact Carla Kempert, Contest Chair, at contest@vfrw.com

LILAC CITY-ROCHESTER WRITERS ANNOUNCES

1st & 10 in 2010

Are you a new writer, looking to see if you're headed in the right direction?

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Washington Post
Bestsellers

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Facebook!

Are you published, wanting to reinvent yourself or considering a new genre? Are you tired of hearing 'the story begins in the wrong place'? Need a fresh fix? We can help! Give us the first 10 pages of your unpublished work, **any fiction genre**; show us how you plan to hook an editor or an agent. With more than ten years experience sponsoring the Barclay Gold and Sterling Contests, LCRW has earned a reputation for providing detailed and personalized comments on our score sheets. No entrant goes away scratching their head, wondering what the scores actually mean!!!

Why come to us?

We're cheap—\$10.00 for 10 pages

We're green—all entries are submitted electronically [including payment if you want]. Score sheets and the entry, with comments directly on the manuscript pages, are returned via email.

Judging: our first round judges have been trained via the RWA model; many are published in different fiction genres, alternate formats and length.

Second round judges: An acquiring agent and an award winning, multi-published Harlequin and Berkley author.

Let us help you to return that opening kick-off into a run for the end zone!!

FMI: www.lcrw.org for rules & regs, entry form, and sample score sheet. For further questions, contact: Contest Coordinator at: www.lcrw.org

2010 Great Beginnings Contest Sponsored by the Utah Romance Writers of America

March 1, 2010—Deadline for all submissions *Contest Fee \$10*

Enter the opening five (5) pages of romance novels of all sub-genres (projected length of at least 50,000 words). Contest is open to published and unpublished authors. Unpublished authors are ranked separately from published authors. Published authors may submit only unpublished, uncontracted manuscripts. NOTE: If you have a romance novel published by a non-recognized RWA publisher, Utah RWA Considers you to be published. For more information email Jennifer Beckstrand jgbeckstrand@gmail.com or see Great Beginnings Contest details on <http://www.utahrwa.com>

The Bristol Short Story Competition Entries from the UK and throughout the world The deadline to enter is March 31

Entry fee is 7 pounds (about \$11 at current currency rates). Prizes will be awarded:

1st- £500 plus £150 Waterstone's gift card

2nd- £350 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card

3rd- £ 200 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card

The other 17 writers who feature on the shortlist will be presented with a cheque for £50.

All 20 shortlisted stories will be published in Volume 3 of the Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology.

Stories may be in any genre, no longer than 300 words. You may submit via email. For more information please visit <http://www.bristolprize.co.uk/>.

Courtesy Cynthia Sterling

Twenty-Seventh Annual Orange Rose Contest for Unpublished Writers

NEW! Electronic Entries for RWA Members who reside outside the continental United States

Deadline: April 10, 2010

Enter: Synopsis and beginning of unpublished manuscript (first 55 pages maximum)

Fees: OCCRWA Members: \$25.00, Other RWA Members: \$35.00

First Round Judges: 3 published authors

Top ten finalists will be announced July 10, 2010 and are chosen by their overall score, NOT by category. Finalist manuscripts are judged by two editors who acquire in the appropriate category for the finalist entry(ies) and are selected AFTER the finalists are determined.

Cash prizes: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50, 4th - \$25

Rules/Entry Form and Sample Score Sheet:

www.occrrwa.org/orangerose.html. Questions: Contest Coordinator: Lynn Nissen. Email: orangerose@occrrwa.org or lnissenoccrrwa@yahoo.com.

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.

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

BEGINNING WRITER WORKSHOPS

Beginning Writer Workshops offers online writing workshops for writers of all fiction genres, as well as non-fiction and memoir writing. These monthly online workshops, taught by experts with a proven track record, and are designed to help all writers build successful careers in their chosen area. Courses begin in September and are \$25 per course. Check out this year's selection at <http://www.BeginningWriterWorkshops.com>.

February 1-14

**The Red River Romance Writers of Wichita Falls, Texas
"The Xtremely Productive Writer" with Kara Lennox**

Price: RRRW Members - \$15; Non-members - \$20

Do you wish you could write more? Does life get in the way? Do you

frequently miss deadlines? Does your manuscript languish for weeks at a time, withering from lack of attention? Do you look at writers who write three, four, five or more books a year and figure they must be superhuman? In this two-week intensive class, you will learn how to identify the things that interfere with your productivity and keep you from writing. Then we'll discuss strategies for writing more without compromising quality or neglecting the rest of your life. This workshop includes some hands-on homework and exercises to get your hands onto that keyboard right away, and keep you writing on into the rest of the year. In addition to presenting ten "lectures," Kara

Lennox will address students' individual questions and unique situations and provide as much feedback as time allows. A lively give-and-take among students is also encouraged.

Bio: Kara Lennox (a.k.a. Karen Leabo) has written more than 50 contemporary romance novels for Harlequin/Silhouette and Bantam Loveswept. Since her first novel was released in 1989, her books frequently appear on romance bestseller lists. She is currently working on a romantic suspense trilogy, "Project Justice," for Harlequin Superromance, to be published in 2011. Kara's books have finaled in several romance industry contests including the National Readers' Choice Awards, the Holt Medallion competition, and the RITA®. Her Harlequin American Romance PLAIN JANE'S PLAN won a *Romantic Times* Reviewers' Choice award. For more information visit:

<http://redriverromancewriters.com/workshops.php>

February 1-28, 2010

**The Black Diamond Chapter of RWA Presents
You CAN Write a Synopsis! by Camy Tang**

\$25 BDRWA members/\$30 non-members

Whether you've got a complete manuscript or you've just started one, this class will help you write a complete synopsis for your story. I will take you step by step so that by the end of the class you will have written a one-page synopsis, a 4-6 page synopsis, and also a more organic "character" synopsis. I will give you tips and tricks to ensure you have all the structural and character elements an editor is looking for: Inciting Incident, external goal, internal conflict, romantic conflict, major obstacles, epiphany, climax, and resolution. Never fear synopsis writing again—this class will make you synopsis savvy!

Bio: Camy Tang writes romance with a kick of wasabi. She has published a humorous contemporary romance series called the Sushi series, a romantic suspense titled *Deadly Intent* with Love Inspired Suspense, and this year she'll release a new humorous contemporary romance in May. Originally from Hawaii, she worked as a biologist for 9 years, but now she is a staff worker for her San Jose church youth group and leads a worship team for Sunday service. She also runs the Story Sensei fiction critique service, which specializes in book doctoring. On her blog, she gives away Christian novels and ponders frivolous things. Visit her website at <http://www.camytang.com/> and sign up for her newsletter YahooGroup for monthly giveaways! FMI: email treasurer@bdrwa.com or go to our website: www.bdrwa.com check out online classes.

RWA's Mystery/Suspense Chapter is pleased to announce our COFFIN College of Felony and Intrigue KILLER INSTINCT online workshop for the month of February 2010.

WORKSHOP: Deep POV: Myths, Methods, and Madness

CLASS DESCRIPTION: Deep POV is not for every author or every story, but when you get it right, it's a very contemporary way of connecting your readers closely to your characters. But Alicia Rasley (author of the Writer's Digest book, *The Power of Point of View*) cautions that Deep POV isn't about character names or stream-of-conscious mental texting, but about getting into your character and presenting the totality of the experience so that the reader can participate. In this interactive workshop, Rasley will discuss the myths of Deep POV, the methods of getting into character and presenting the story, and the madness you might need to experience to truly get into someone else's mind and body. If you are challenging yourself to create a more interactive story experience and a more character-intensive voice, this is the class for you.

INSTRUCTOR: Alicia Rasley is a nationally known workshop leader and the author of *The Story Within Plotting Guide* and *The Power of Point of View*. She teaches at two state colleges and online. Her free writing articles are archived at www.rasley.com.

KILLER INSTINCT workshops encompass writing and craft topics.

****PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 27TH day of the month**

PRIOR to the start of the COFFIN class. Cost of each Workshop is (Currently) \$15.00 US for KOD Members, \$30.00 US for non-KOD Members. (RWA membership NOT required to take the course).

For more information check out our website at

<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org>

February 1, 2010 - February 14, 2010

The Art of Rewriting Presented by Martha Engber

\$10 for FFnP Members; \$20 for Non-members

Click here to register <<http://www.romance-ffp.com/event.cfm?EventID=127>>

As Dorothy Parker once said, "I can't write five words but that I change seven." While writing anything can be an arduous task, rewriting can be ten times as difficult and as bewildering. Yet rewriting also allows you the fantastic opportunity not only to improve the story you're currently working on, but to improve your future writing, as well. In this class we'll discuss how to structure and employ various strategies that we'll then practice in class. We'll also talk about: adopting the right expectations; estimating the time necessary for completion; understanding the three levels of editing; breaking the job into manageable pieces; and seeking feedback as part of the process. 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 \$20.00 for non-FFnP members. Payment is expected when registering, and your registration will not be complete until you've paid. Unpaid registrations will be deleted 48 hours before the class.

February 15–March 13, 2010

OCC RWA Workshop

Fast Draft and Revision Hell with Candace Havens

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

Fast Draft: It's easy to come up with excuses why you can't finish your manuscript. You're busy, life is crazy, there is always something. The truth is, there are no real excuses. If you want to sell a book, you have to finish. There's no time like the present. Author Candace Havens has developed a step-by-step process to help you finish your work in progress in just two weeks. At the end of the two weeks, you'll have your first draft. Revision Hell: It can't be daunting going back in and editing, tightening and cleaning up your manuscript. That's why author Candace Havens developed a system to help get through that process step-by-step. In two weeks you'll have a polished manuscript that is ready to sell.

About the Instructor: Candace "Candy" Havens is a best selling and award-winning author. Her novels include "Charmed & Dangerous", "Charmed & Ready", "Charmed & Deadly", "Like A Charm" and "The Demon King and I". She is known for writing strong female characters, who save the world, but aren't exactly perfect. She is a two-time RITA, Write Touch Reader and Holt Medallion finalist. She is also the winner of the Barbara Wilson award, and the 2009 Pro Mentor of the Year. Candy is a nationally syndicated entertainment columnist for FYI Television. A veteran journalist she has interviewed just about everyone in Hollywood from George Clooney and Orlando Bloom to Nicole Kidman and Kate Beckinsale. You can hear Candy weekly on 96.3 KSCS in the Dallas Fort Worth Area. Her popular online Writer's Workshop has more than 1300 students and provides free classes to professional and aspiring writers. For more information please visit <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>

February 15, 2010—March 14, 2010

Mythic Elements Presented by Marcy Weydemuller

\$15 for FFnP Members; \$25 for Non-members

Click here to register <<http://www.romance-ffp.com/event.cfm?EventID=112>>

Add Depth to Your Novel with Mythic Elements

Because they encompass timeless motifs, mythic elements can add an extra layer of depth to a novel, whether contemporary, historical, paranormal, or fantasy. Mythic elements have contributed to the success of many stories from *Star Wars* and *The Princess Bride* to *O Brother, Where Art Thou*, *Troy*, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* trilogy. During this four week course we'll examine some metaphoric functions that help build emotional resonance and memory. 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 \$15.00 for FFnP members and \$25.00 for non-FFnP members. Payment is expected when registering and your registration will not be complete until you've paid. Unpaid registrations will be deleted 48 hours before the class.

BIO: Marcy Weydemuller received a B.A. in history and sociology from

Concordia University in Montreal, Canada and an M.F.A. in writing from Norwich University in Vermont with a special focus on YA fantasy and poetry. In addition to teaching creative writing classes she taught college freshman for five years and is a member of SCBWI. Currently she is pursuing her own writing projects and is a freelance editing.

June 7—21, 2010

Airing Dirty Laundry—Use Family Stories, Eavesdropping, and Cable TV to Create Writing Income

Instructor: Marilyn Puett

CLASS DESCRIPTION: Airing Dirty Laundry offers information and tips on how to create a source of outside income by writing short stories for the confessions and romance magazines. This two-week workshop is geared for writers who want extra income while waiting to sell their first book, are between royalty checks or simply want an extra income stream. This course takes students step by step through writing a confession. It begins with learning the market, developing hooks and compelling story lines and structuring a story properly. By the end of the course, students should have a story ready for submission. Additionally, participants will be given the opportunity to submit the first few pages of a story they start during the class and have the pages critiqued by published writers. Two stories will be selected toward the end of the class to receive a full critique.

INSTRUCTOR BIO: Marilyn Puett has sold over thirty stories and a half-dozen short feature articles to the confessions and romance magazines. She has also sold to an e-zine called [Chick Lit Review](#) and an anthology titled, appropriately enough, [I Confess](#). She appears in both the 2008 and 2009 [Bylines Writers' Desk Calendar](#) and her article "Short Shorts—Not Just a Fashion Statement" was featured on the Writing for Dollars website. In November 2008 she took the NaNoWriMo challenge and wrote 50,000 words on a book she started way too many years ago. When Silhouette Special Edition announced an online pitch contest several months later, she hunkered down, finished the book and submitted a synopsis to the contest. One of eleven finalists, she received a request for her full manuscript, putting her a tiny step closer to the dream of being published in novel format. The book was ultimately rejected but is awaiting revision and submission to a different line. Marilyn is a member of Heart of Dixie RWA and serves RWA on both the local and national levels. A founding member of The Writing Playground, a website for aspiring writers (www.writingplayground.com), she lives in her empty nest in north Alabama and dotes on her granddaughter.

Cost: \$20 - Submit the payment via Paypal below or mail to the address listed. All payments for a workshop **must** be received by the registration deadline—**June 5th**. Please email the [Online Class Coordinator](#) with questions.

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

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Conferences

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.

EPIC Con- Electronically Published Internet Connection

March 4-7th, 2010

Sheraton New Orleans in New Orleans, LA

The Electronically Published Internet Connection, is the gathering place for authors, publishers and other industry professionals to celebrate the best of the best with the EPPIE Awards, to share newest information and ideas, to hone their writing skills, and to explore new markets. For more information please visit <http://www.epic-conference.com/>.

Velocicon Conference

Oyster Point Hotel in Red Bank NJ

March 6, 2010

Registration is open for a limited time to this unique paranormal event! The morning offers writing workshops, and the afternoon sessions are led by unique experts from various fields in the paranormal realm. Velocicon is a one day conference, hosted by paranormal investigator extraordinaire, Jeff Belanger. Workshops kick off the morning with award winning authors teaching the how to's of writing genre novels. Authors include award winners like two time Hugo winner John Grant, USA TODAY's best selling author Judi McCoy, best sellers Leanna Renee Hieber and rising star Isabo Kelly. The sit down luncheon's keynote speaker is Dr Dave Goldberg, a renowned astrophysicist from Drexel University, lecturing on the science of time travel. In the afternoon, Jeff Belanger will make a presentation and conduct a panel of experts in various areas of the paranormal field. Founder of the New Jersey Ghost Hunters Society, L'Aura Hladik will be on hand with ghost hunting equipment. Rev. Barbara Sfranski from Salem, with her aura camera and spiritual expertise will also be presenting. Bob Murch, the country's foremost historian on "talking boards" (aka Ouija), will speak on the history of these mysterious objects, bringing his collection of antique boards to display. Half day and full day options are available. A light breakfast is included with full day registration. Luncheon is included with both half and full registration. At the conclusion of the conference, there will be a book signing and a paranormal market open to the public. Weird New Jersey will be on hand!

Contact Velocicon for registration and advertising opportunities at www.velocicon.com. Steph Murray, CEO Crescent Moon Press, plunge into the moonlight! www.crescentmoonpress.com

Valley Forge Romance Writers Panel

March 12, 2010

12-4 pm

\$15 VFRW Member, \$20 Non-VFRW Member

For more information, please visit www.VFRW.com

Want to know what editors/agents think when they see YOUR query in their in-bin? Submit a one-page query letter with your registration fee. VFRW cannot guarantee all queries will be discussed at the meeting, but will be provided to the panel beforehand, so the editor/agents will have the opportunity to read them and perhaps contact you after the panel if they are interested in seeing more. Registration will remain open until Friday, February 19, 2010. All registrations must be received by midnight EST on February 19, 2010. No queries will be accepted after that date, as they will be forwarded to the panel on the 20th.

**Liberty States Fiction Writers
Create Something Magical Conference
March 13, 2010**

Featuring *F. Paul Wilson, Virginia Kantra, Sarah Langan, Caridad Piñeiro, Mary Kennedy, Jonathan Maberry, Sarah Wendell, Lois Winston, Laura Anne Gilman, Anna DeStefano, Judi Fennell, Stephanie Julian, Erin Galloway, Erienne Rojas, Judy Spagnola, Nisha Sharma, and more . . .*

Plus: Editor/Agent Appointments, Luncheon, and a Networking Reception
Registration Opens October 1, 2009

Registration Fees:

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

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

When: March 13, 2010

Where: Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel

515 Route 1 South & Gill Lane

Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Phone: 732-634-3600 732-634-3600 Fax: 732-634-0258

**Overcoming Challenges: A Program for Authors and Illustrators
Saturday**

March 13, 2010, 10:00 - 3:30

Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA

\$15.00 for SCBWI members

Four veteran authors and author-illustrators participate in a two-part program that addresses the challenges we all face as writers and illustrators of children's book. A book sale and signing will round out the day.

Elise Broach is the author of six picture books and three novels. Both *When Dinosaurs Came with Everything* and *Masterpiece* won the E. B. White Read Aloud Award.

Lita Judge combines her love of history and nature to write and illustrate children's books. Her first picture book, *One Thousand Tracings*, won the 2008 IRA Children's Book Award and was a Jane Addams Award Honoree.

Grace Lin is the author/illustrator of more than a dozen picture books. Also an author of middle grade fiction, Grace's most recent novel *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* was the 2009 Parents' Choice Gold Winner.

Sara Pennypacker is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling *Clementine* series, two other chapter book series, and two picture books, one of which won the 2007 Golden Kite Award. For additional information and **Registration Form**, go to www.nescbwi.org <<http://www.nescbwi.org/>> , click on News & Events, and scroll down.

**The 2010 Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop at the University of Dayton
Thurs., April 15 to Sat., April 17, 2010**

The Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop is a one-of-a-kind national resource for humor and human interest writing. No other organization has targeted humor and human interest writers as its primary educational focus.

The workshop registration fee is \$375 and includes all workshop sessions as well as two continental breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners.

Registration is now open. To register, follow this link:

<https://www.regonline.com/bombeck2010>

**Emerald Coast Writers Writers' Conference
April 8th through 10th**

Our keynote speaker is bestselling author, P.J. Parrish. (Actually, one half of the sister team of Kristy Montee and Kelly Nichols) P.J. Parrish | *New York Times* Bestselling Author. Their books in the Louis Kincaid series have been on both the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller lists and have been nominated for a total of ten major mystery novel writing awards including the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, and Thriller Award. The books have been published in Japan, Sweden, Thailand, and Canada, and the UK, in addition to the U.S. Attending agents:

Emmanuelle Alspaugh—Judith Ehrlich Literary

Suzie Townsend—FinePrint Literary Management

Michelle Brower—Folio Literary Management

The event takes place at the beautiful Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, located directly on the Gulf of Mexico. We expect to attract over 150 people this year. Emerald Coast Writers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping writers of all genres. We regularly hold critique sessions, workshops, and conferences designed to aid the beginning and published writers in our area. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the level of enthusiasm and professionalism ECW members bring to the occasion. Our conference is fast becoming one of the most popular in the South. All sessions are taught by individual instructors who are published authors, agents, editors or experts in the publishing industry. We invite you to be one of them. As with most conferences, we do not pay the expenses of speakers, except for the keynote, agents, and editors. We feel the invitation provides a promotional opportunity for authors and professionals in the writing field. During the conference we will provide book signings and coverage on Talk Radio. The local newspaper also covers the event, so the publicity the speakers receive is twofold, conference and community wide. If you can't attend this year, we invite you to send us your promotional material to be distributed in the goodie bags we hand out at registration. Send all material to me, Joyce Holland, at: 434 Cardinal Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. Email: Boatdolly@aol.com
Check us out at www.EmeraldCoastWriters.org

Please note that LSFW does not endorse any of these conferences and asks that you check the fine print regarding

the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Editor/Agent News

Ronit Feldman has been promoted to associate editor at Nan A. Talese books. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Elizabeth Evans has joined the Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Chelsea Gilmore has joined the Maria Carvainis Agency. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

The **Taryn Fagerness Agency** will now handle subsidiary rights for P.S. Literary Agency. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Viking UK, **Will Hammond** has been promoted to commissioning editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Alicia Condon, formerly with Leisure, has left that house to take over the late Kate Duffy's position at Kensington Books, as editorial director of Brava. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

At Simon and Schuster Children's **Jim Gifford** has been promoted to Executive Editor and **Annette Pollert** has been promoted to associate editor at the YA imprint, Simon Pulse. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Tracy Martin and **Latoya Smith** have been promoted to assistant editors at Grand Central Publishing. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Renée Sedliar has been promoted to executive editor and **Jonathan Crowe** has been promoted to editor at Da Capo. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Dorothy Spencer has joined the Jennifer DeChiara Literary Agency, representing adult fiction and non-fiction in a variety of genres. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Kerry Donovan has been promoted to editor at NAL. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

BookEnds Literary Agency co-founder **Jacky Sach** will retire from publishing after 10 years as an agent for "new opportunities." BookEnds will continue operating under the ownership of **Jessica Faust**. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At NAL **Brent Howard** has been promoted to editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Laney Katz Becker has joined the Markson Thoma Literary Agency as an agent. She was previously at Folio Literary Management. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Gabrielle Moss has been promoted to associate editor at Penguin's Tarcher imprint. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Jillian Quint moves up to associate editor at Ballantine and **Ryan Doherty** is now editor for Ballantine, Villard, and Presidio Press; **Mya Spalter** is assistant editor at Spiegel & Grau; and **Kaitlin Heller** and **David Pomerico** are now assistant editors at Del Rey/Spectra. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Gillie Russell will join Aitken Alexander as an agent, focusing on YA and children's books. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Orion Children's has hired **Amber Caraveo** as editorial director. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Junessa Viloria is now an assistant editor at Ballantine; **Angela Polidoro** is an assistant editor at Bantam; **Randall Klein** moves up to associate editor at Bantam Dell; and **Jessica Sebor** is now an assistant editor at Bantam Dell. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Dorchester has promoted **Leah Hultenschmidt** to editorial director. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Esi Sogah has been promoted to associate editor at the Morrow/Avon imprint. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Marysue Ricci will move to Putnam on March 15 as editorial director. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Brendan Deneen has joined Thomas Dunne Books as an editor. He was an agent at FinePrint Literary. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

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Publisher News

Laura Hruska, co-founder of the Soho Press in 1986 died Saturday at her home in Manhattan. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Longtime Farrar, Straus Children's editorial director **Margaret Ferguson** will launch a Margaret Ferguson Books imprint at the company in 2011. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

From the co-authors of the highly popular CHRISTMAS MIRACLES, Cecil Murphey and Marley Gibson are seeking submissions for their follow-up book, CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, to be published by St. Martin's Press in the fall of 2011,

with a foreward by *New York Times* Bestselling author, Debbie Macomber. The project seeks true stories that emphasize the significance of the Christmas season. We get caught up in the busy-ness of the season—the shopping, the family drama, and the event planning--that we lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Sometimes, through God's grace or what some call a twist of fate, we're able to step back and grasp the real meaning of Christmas and our lives are enriched. This is a great opportunity for authors of all kinds to participate in a successful compilation. Please visit <http://www.christmasspiritbook.com> for more information on guidelines and how to submit.

Deadline for stories is May 1, 2010

Carina Press, the e-book press of HQN, is looking for historical romances.

Details are at:

<http://riskyregencies.blogspot.com/2010/01/carina-press-call-for-submissions.html>

and here's the link to their submission guidelines:

<http://carinapress.com/submission-guidelines/>

Realms of Fantasy has scheduled a special “Women in Fantasy” issue for August 2011 and the editors are looking for contributions now. If you are a woman who writes short fantasy fiction, this issue is for you. Stories should be no longer than 10,000 words. Payment is 6 cents a word for the first 7500 words and 4 cents a words thereafter. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2010. Check their [writer's guidelines](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Juno Books editor Paula Guran says: “I’m still looking primarily for completed or near-completed novels. I’d like to see more novels that could stand alone. This doesn’t rule out that there might not be more books for a series, but I’d like to see some novels that you must read in one-two-three-etc. order and that don’t need at least two sequels for the reader to “get” the story arc. The heroine doesn’t always need to have a destiny to fulfill or even have supernatural powers herself. Fantasy is reality viewed through a prism.” (Reported in Cynthia Ward’s [Market Maven](#).) Find Juno Books complete guidelines [here](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Kirkus Reviews Reprieved, Will Continue Publishing

Good news for those who shed a tear over the planned closing of Kirkus Reviews: they may have been premature. The venerable review organ apparently has secured a new buyer and will continue publication. *Courtesy Mary Kennedy.*

Phil Levine of Woodstock fame provided this information:

Tiferet: A Journal of Spiritual Literature (<http://tiferetjournal.com>) seeks high-quality fiction for its upcoming issues in 2010. With a few exceptions, we print only work that has not been published previously. We look for writing that helps to express the complexities of spiritual experience. “Spiritual experience” does not necessarily translate to “religious,” and for us it does *not* translate to “proselytizing.” Most of all, we seek good writing from both

new and established writers.

Guidelines: Please submit only one story at a time. Your manuscript should be double-spaced with full author information including your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on the first page. A brief cover letter is useful. Please use only our online [Submission Manager](#). We acquire first-time North American rights; non-exclusive, one-time anthology rights; and the right to run a portion of the story on our web site. After publication, all other rights revert to the author and the work may be reprinted as long as appropriate acknowledgment to *TIFERET Magazine* is made. Authors proof their galleys and will receive 2 copies of the issue in which their work appears. We read submissions year-round but regret we can't comment on all of them. All manuscripts are carefully considered. Turn-around time is usually 1-3 months. We look forward to reading your work. Thank you.

Jeffrey Davis, Fiction Editor. editors@tiferetjournal.com

Bayou Magazine is currently reading **fiction, nonfiction & poetry** for next issue. Up to 7500 words, prose; up to 5 poems. Guidelines at <http://cola.uno.edu/cww/bayou>. *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day*

Evening Street Review is centered on the belief that all men & women are created equal. Reads **poetry/prose** submissions year-round. 4-6 poems or 1-2 prose pieces. Contests & guidelines at www.eveningstreetpress.com. *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day*

Earthspeak Magazine, new online literary venture, seeks **poems, essays & short stories that reflect on the artist's interaction with the natural world**, whether a commentary on the necessity of conservation, season rhythms, or on the alienation of modern society from the world around it. Info/guidelines at www.earthspeakmagazine.com. *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day*

Grist: the Journal for Writers is accepting **poetry & fiction** for our journal & contest. Also seeking **one-act plays** as part of special genre series. Guidelines: www.gristjournal.com (I went to this site & didn't see anything about the plays so, if that's your thing, send an e-mail.) *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day*

Raving Dove wants **thought-provoking poetry & prose that champions human rights & social justice and opposes physical & psychological violence in all forms**. Visit www.ravingdove.org for info & guidelines. *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day*

E-bulletin from **Poets & Writers** noted there are a number of new entries on their Literary Magazine Listing—among them are: ***Chaparral*** (poetry), ***War, Literature & the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities*** (poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction); ***Caper Literary Journal*** (poetry), ***Storyscape Journal*** (poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction), ***Sleet Magazine*** (poetry, fiction), ***Levantine Review*** (poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction) and more. Go to www.pw.org to check out their extensive list of publishing opportunities, plus

lots of other features. *Courtesy WomanWords E-News by Marilyn Zembo Day.*

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Liberty States Fiction Writers ★ PO Box 2914 ★ Westfield, NJ 07090