

# Writers' Notes

The Newsletter of  
*Women Who Write, Inc.*

Summer / Fall

Volume 21, Issue 2

## President's Message

Greetings,

I am delighted to announce that the New Providence Library was so impressed with our *Goldfinch* launch this year, it has offered to sponsor **Goldfinch Launch 2017 on March 25th**. Congratulations to all those involved in the *Goldfinch* process this year. Editor-in-Chief **Joanne Flynn**



**Black** held this position for the last three years. She previously had been *Writers' Notes* Editor, with a total of nine years on the Board. Thank you, Joanne, for your many years of service! **Replacing Joanne is Lisa Honecker**, who had been the Assistant Editor, Poetry. We also have two more new Board members: **Diane Masucci replaces Amy Reade for VP Membership and Maria Dewaik replaces Michelle Hollander for Writers' Notes**. Amy (who lives 2 1/2 hours away) and Michelle both gave 100% effort. Thank you! (Below is a photo with a listing of our present Board members for fiscal year 2016-2017. Some members are missing from the photo.)

Enjoy your summer but don't forget: **Conference registration opens July 15th for members**. We had a record turnout last year and hope to be as successful this year. Choices within sessions will be offered again. If you'd like a professional to critique your writing, we will have 15 minute one-on-one critiques by editors and agents; lyric critiques by Mimi Cross; website critiques by WWW webmaster, Andy Skurna; and poetry critiques by Dodge poet, editor and teacher Sander Zulauf. (My second picture book would not have turned out as well if I had not had a critique by a professional at our Conference.)

Happy writing, Ginger Pate

## Mark Your Calendar

**Women Who Write's Sixth Annual Writers' Conference** will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison, NJ.

This year again, it will be all about Choices. There will be a morning keynote address on Incorporating Lyrics into your writing and an afternoon keynote address about Social Media.

A taste of some of the offerings:  
*Get Real*. Marie Lamba, author and agent at the Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency, will reveal techniques to suck your readers in so they become part of the story by becoming co-creators; and,

*Demystifying Publishing Deals*, with Marisa Corvisiero, Esq., Corvisiero Literary Agency.

Registration will open on July 15, 2016 for members and July 22, 2016 for Non-members. For more information and to register, go to [www.womenhowrite.org](http://www.womenhowrite.org)

## 2016-2017 Board of Trustees

**Seated:** Sarah Ducksworth, Secretary; Ginger Pate, President; Cherie Pritchett, V.P. Programs; Diane Masucci, V.P. Membership

**Back row:** Marcia Ivans, Website Liaison; Lisa Honecker, Editor, *Goldfinch*; Dana Punzo, Conference Co-Chair; Elsie Boehm, Archivist; Maria Dewaik, Editor, *Writers' Notes*.

**Missing:** Gigi Collins, Treasurer; Debbie Gerrish, Trustee-at-Large; Marlaina Cockcroft, Trustee-at-Large



## A Note from the Editor



As the newest Editor of Writers' Notes, I promise to make every attempt at providing you with an informative and noteworthy newsletter. Judging from past issues, I have some big shoes to fill.

We are all busy with families, jobs, and other obligations, so it is always good to share thoughts and ideas to assist each other in becoming successful in what we all love to do. This is my invitation to all to share what you can. Who knows, maybe you will contribute something vital to someone else's success. We are all here for the same purpose and that is to **write** and be the best we can.

Looking forward to a new and exciting year of writing and successful accomplishments.

Keep on writing. Maria Dewaik

## WWW Published Authors Refine Public Speaking Skills

by C.L. Pritchett

On June 4, 2016, our newly formed Published Authors group was treated to a free public speaking program given by long-time WWW member Ronnie Hammer at the New Providence Library. Ronnie is a certified speech pathologist. Her corporation, Power Presentations, taught executives skills in public speaking for twenty-two years.



Two important principles were the focus of the presentation.

1. Building Confidence. It's important to become your own best friend. You've done the work, put in the research and can discuss the subject better than anyone else in the room. Never feel that you might be wasting the audience's time.

2. Presentation. Focus on pace, tone, volume and expression. The audience should see and feel **life** in what you are saying. Use a script with numbered pages to remind you of the words you will read and **how** you wish to say them. Practice reading it, pay attention to and mark where you will pause, slow down between words, or if necessary, run words closely. Dog-ear the bottom, right corner of each page, so that you can grab and seamlessly move that page to the side to advance to the next one.

Following her presentation, members read an excerpt of their books and Ronnie provided immediate feedback. The workshop was very helpful and gave us great insights.

The following was graciously contributed by Alice Lazzarini, PhD by special request from the Editor.  
Thank you Alice for providing this vital information and sharing with all.

### Both Sides Now: A Journey From Researcher to Patient — by Alice Lazzarini, PhD

I have always been frightened of birds, but take solace in knowing that even Walt Disney was fearful—of mice!

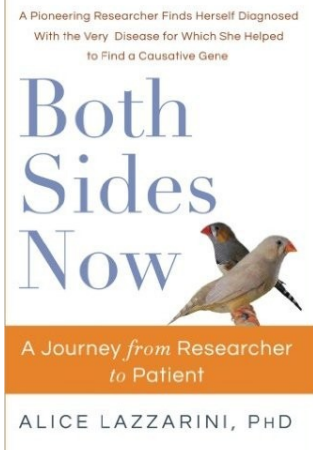
My fear is really not all that illogical because, when I was a small girl, some neighborhood boys forced me inside a chicken coop and locked the door. I was scared to death closed in that dark smelly place with chickens pecking and squawking at my intrusion!

But, I now have a newfound relationship with these feathered critters. In 1997, while on the faculty of the neurology department of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, I was on an international team that discovered the very first mutation to cause Parkinson's disease. That discovery would completely revolutionize the course of Parkinson's research. The mutation we identified was in the gene for a protein about which we knew very little at the time—other than it was involved in learning in the songbird! Then, in an ironic twist, I developed the very disease I had researched!

The little birds on my book's cover are zebra finches, songbirds that continue to yield important clues about brain pathways that now have gone awry in *my* brain to cause an annoying tremor and creeping, restless legs. It is just possible that the research I did—and these little birds—will point the way to treatments that could save my life!

It is a story I've shared with persons with Parkinson's and their families throughout the country with keynote addresses at Overlook Hospital's "4<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Hope" and the American Parkinson Disease Association's "Power Over Parkinson's Conference" in Arizona. This September I will deliver a plenary session at the [4<sup>th</sup> World Parkinson Congress](#) (WPC) in Oregon, and my book, [Both Sides Now](#) has been chosen for presentation at the WPC's [Meet and Greet with Authors](#) session. I have blogged for [Psychology Today](#), the Michael J. Fox Foundation, and the American Parkinson Disease Association and was the invited speaker for St. Peter's University's [65<sup>th</sup> Annual Gregor Mendel Lecture](#). Several [newspapers and magazines](#) have covered my unique perspective from "both sides of the white coat."

Parkinson's disease has taken the lives of too many loved ones from Pope John Paul II to Robin Williams and Muhammad Ali. My book provides a forum with which to spread a message of hope that in our lifetime we will see significant treatment breakthroughs for me and the 7 to 10 million fellow Parkies throughout the world. Follow me at: [www.alicelazzarini.com](http://www.alicelazzarini.com).



## NEW BETA READERS GROUP



Many members have discussed the idea of finding readers for a finished novel beyond their own critique groups. Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes is needed to read the completed work. Members can work months or years on one project within their own groups, so to have the ability to get feedback on a completed project, would be invaluable. An objective outside voice, from a reader who will read the whole novel in a few sittings can be like a breath of fresh air.

As a result of these discussions, WWW will now be offering a new Beta Readers Group. The purpose is to provide a way for authors to get feedback on finished, longer works. The beta group will provide feedback via written comments.

The author would first complete their work, and provide a printed copy. The next step would be contacting the program administrator, who will coordinate with the author to find a beta reader for the work. The author must mail the work to the designated beta reader, who will have about a month's time to read and comment on the work. The reader will mail the piece back to the author with general comments.

For more information and complete rules, contact Mary Olmstead, Administrator at [knicks2000434@cs.com](mailto:knicks2000434@cs.com).

## Poetry and Pastries



Marcia Ivans is happy to announce Poetry and Pastries, open poetry reading will be starting its thirteenth year on September 20 at Café Beethoven.

She has been invited to teach a poetry workshop starting in October at Cedar Crest in Pompton Plains where she moved recently. Also she will be giving a poetry discussion and workshop at the Pequannock Township Public Library on September 22.

## Reflections on Suspense Saturday with Jenny Milchman

by Claudia Broglio

A few months ago, I received an email about an upcoming WWW workshop entitled Suspense Saturday. Cute alliteration I thought, but I was annoyed. I don't read or write suspense. Why attend? I promptly deleted the unwelcome email.

Sometime later, I received another email informing me that Suspense Saturday had been rescheduled. Hmm. I reread the email and revisited my attitude. After all, some (or a lot of) thought must have gone into planning the event. Besides, how bad could it be to spend a few hours with fellow writers? With an author? With someone other than myself and my bad attitude? Eventually, I shut up, signed up, and went.

Suspense Saturday was held at the Morris County Library on May 14, and our presenter was the ultra-talented Jenny Milchman—author of *Cover of Snow*, *Ruin Falls*, and *As Night Falls* (which I highly recommend because after attending her workshop I read all three).

Wondering what she talked about? Well, she covered topics such as engaging your reader from the outset, creating and sustaining nail-biting tension (this woman knows her stuff), constructing suspenseful scenes, and more. Lots more! She also discussed voice, interiority, premise—I could go on and on. Best of all, much of what she talked about pertained to all genres, not just suspense.

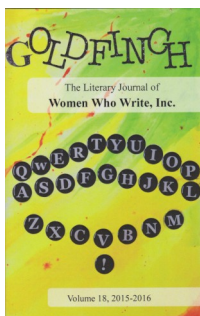
Bottom line, I was a happy attendee.

Thanks Jenny!



## WWW Celebrates Goldfinch 18!

by Cherie L. Pritchett



On April 24, 2016, WWW held the launch of the 18th volume of our literary magazine, Goldfinch, at the New Providence Library. This marked the first time that a library offered to sponsor one of our events; so, it was truly an honor. The event was well attended by WWW members, the selected authors as well as their families and friends. Several authors performed a reading of a portion of their story or poem. The selections ranged from poetry, children's/young adult literature, creative non-fiction and fiction. After a brief intermission, we

held an open mic for everyone in attendance. We extend our deepest gratitude to each person who volunteered to make this program a success. In particular, we thank Elsie Boehm for her creative cover art, our webmaster, Andy Skurna, and the hard-working editorial team, Joanne Flynn Black, our Editor-in-Chief, Mary Olmstead, our Prose Editor, our timer and Poetry Editor, Lisa Honecker, and our President, Ginger Pate.

Broadfoot & Broadfoot Poetry Reading

by Dana Faulkner-Punzo



One of our members, Lisa Salerno Honecker, read some of her original poetry at Broadfoot & Broadfoot, A Collection of Fine Art Gallery sponsored by First Friday Late Night: Artists on Main in Boonton on April 3rd. Lisa read five of her poems titled "My College Degree", "Turquoise Stones", "Swing from the Rafters", and "How to Forget", "The Three B's Bare, Buck, and Butt." This incredible night is dedicated to showcasing local artists and celebrates all art forms including music, poetry, visual arts and crafts. Local vendors are open late and offer wine and cheese to spectators and shoppers. Lisa did an amazing reading to an appreciative audience.

Success Stories

Amy Simonson had a essay published by Mothers Always Write on their web site on Wednesday, May 25th, entitled "Labels and the Damage Done." Congratulations to Amy

Karen DelleCava sold 2 short stories to Highlights earlier this year. "Another Time" and "Stepping Up." Great Job!

We are pleased to announce the launch of Mira Peck's third book, **My Men Too**, a sequel to previously-published **My Men**. Also available is **Sour Cherry Tree**, a reminiscence of globe-trotting across three continents, through poetry and short prose.

For more information about the books and the author, please check her website, [www.mirapeck.com](http://www.mirapeck.com).

To avoid date conflicts, please contact Cherie Pritchett, Programs VP, if you are planning an event that will include WWW members.

First WWW Published Authors' Book Sale Event

We are very excited and proud to announce our first ever book sale event. On Saturday, December 3, 2016 WWW Published Authors will be participating in a Meet and Greet and WWW Authors' book sale at the Short Stories Community Book Hub. The bookstore's new location is in the historic James Building on 23 Main Street in Madison (on the



corner of Main Street and Green Village Road). The event will be held from noon until 4:00 pm. Bring your friends and families and join us in supporting our published authors and fellow writers. Let's make this first book sale a success.



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