

Writers' Notes

The Newsletter of

News and Information for Women Who Write, Inc.



Women Who Write, Inc.

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President's Message by Dana-Faulkner Punzo

Greetings Fellow Writers,

My name is Dana Faulkner-Punzo and it is my pleasure, as your President, to thank each one of you for your membership. Women Who Write appreciates all of your talents. Our Winter Gathering was a huge success even with a dreaded flu season upon us.

I was able to chat with new and existing members. This is an annual event so please try to attend next year or return again. During my Presidency I am determined to get to know you all and am starting to visit critique groups this month so I can be a part of your experience that way. I started writing in one of our groups and remember how important the comradery was for me. My entry into WWW started in Ronnie Hammer's Madison Mixed Genre critique group that met at the Morris County Library. This was ten years

ago! Time flies by quickly. I remember being nervous about sharing my writing at first but with the support and encouragement of the group I was writing more and learning. Eventually critiquing others' work comfortably, the best part was the lasting friendships that I have made. WWW is always striving to create many opportunities for members to unite. New informative programs, workshops, Published Authors Group, are a few of our successful efforts. The board is actively working to provide members an organization to tap into for "everything writing." We will be adding a member survey to our website in the near future to find out what you really want from WWW to suit your needs. It is important to us that members feel WWW belongs to you. I would like to thank two board members who will be retiring this year. Gigi Collins our treasurer and Diane Masucci

our VP Membership. Thank you for your dedication to WWW.

Please send in your stories to Writers' Notes. Send your work to WritersNotes@WomenWhoWrite.org. We want to know what you are up to and will be sending you a quarterly edition.

Happy Writing!

Dana



2018 Winter Gathering

by Maria Dewaik



This year's Winter Gathering was held at the Cosy Cupboard Tea Room in Morristown on January 27, 2018. It was a wonderful time and was enjoyed by all who attended. The venue was quite elegant and the décor lovely. The owner and his staff did an outstanding job and made us all feel well taken care of. It was a nice time.



Children's Magazines by Debbie Amadei



On March 3, 2018, Women Who Write's Published Authors Group presented a program at the New Providence

Public Library on writing for the children's magazine market. Every month presents a new opportunity to submit while enabling the author to work on long-term projects like novels. It's not easy because it's a competitive market. The author needs to read at least a year's worth of back issues and examine the entire issue from cover

to cover. There are two categories: fiction and nonfiction.

WWW's Published Authors Group member Karen DelleCava's fiction has appeared in *HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN*. She has also sold crafts, games and party plans. SCBWI member Emily Goodman writes mostly nonfiction.

Magazines such as *CRICKET* and *COBBLESTONE* have theme lists. Each issue is dedicated to a specific theme. Aspiring authors need to go to the magazines' websites and print the list of themes and proposal due dates. The

author would also include a bibliography.

CRICKET media has a family of magazines. *SPIDER* is for ages 6-9 and covers fantasy and adventure. *COBBLESTONE* covers ages 9-14 and is on American history. The author needs to pick some interesting aspect of the topic of the month and research it. Nonfiction magazines are used in the classroom as supplementary material.

Karen also does research for her fiction.

The money being paid is modest. Although *HIGHLIGHTS* buys all rights, Karen is sometimes pleasantly surprised when she receives money from them when one of her stories appears in a secondary market like an anthology or test.

While a magazine sale may not seem as glamorous as a book deal, it marks you as a professional writer and allows you to include that in your cover letters as you pursue book deals.



Writers' Notes Editor: Maria Dewaik—Copy Editor: Dorothy Ryan

Updates & Upcoming programs

Dr. Deborah Gerrish will be presenting a program on "Ekphrastic Writing" to be held at the New Providence Library on April 8, 2018 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Dr. Sarah Smith Ducksworth will present a program on "Writing an Essay for Publication," also at the New Providence Library on May 19, 2018 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Both of these programs are free to members.

Reminder — Beta Reader Program. If you have a completed manuscript you would like to have reviewed before submitting to an agent or editor, contact Mary Olmstead, who is in charge of the program at betareaders@womenwhowrite.org or see website for more info.

Authors who have been published in a magazine will soon be a new feature on our website.

Qualities that Create a Strong Writing Group by Maureen L. Haggerty

The Poets' Corner writing group has been meeting twice a month since 2005 at the Madison Community House. At a recent meeting, members were asked to share their thoughts on the qualities that create a strong writing group. These are their responses:

- *Trust, honesty, tact*
- *Sense of humor, peer support, dedication to your work and the group*
- *Consideration, attention to craft, collegiality*
- *Give criticism that is respectful and honest, accept criticism as a learning tool*
- *Openness to the unique ways of expressing creative ideas, commitment to the group, attend regularly*
- *Members offer criticism honestly and*

accept criticism graciously, show up

- *Honest gentle critiquing, friendliness, eager to be at most meetings*



Standing: Elsie Boehm, Dorothy Ryan, Karen Haefelein, Maureen Haggerty, Joanne Cronin; Seated: Marcia Ivans, Maggie Roycraft.

Pamela Hegarty's Program on Indie Publishing by Elissa Matthews



On Saturday, January 27 the Published Authors Group sponsored a presentation by Pamela Hegarty on the Ins and Outs of Independent Publishing. In today's wide-open marketplace, there is a place for both traditional and indie authors.

Ebooks and Print on Demand have opened up new, more profitable publishing opportunities for writers. Websites and social media have created new ways for writers to connect directly with readers. Pam clearly laid

out the many options available to an indie author to be successful in the world. The talk was nating and In short, an informative afternoon was had by all.



Pamela said, "I enjoyed presenting my experiences in Indie Publishing to such a vibrant community of writers. This was all about sharing ideas and inspiring each other."

er."

Pamela Hegarty is an award-winning author and international bestseller on Amazon. Her high stakes history thrillers, *The Seventh Stone*, *The Emerald Tablet*, and *Goldenfire*, blend heart-pounding action with historical intrigue and romance.



Share your Talents—Volunteers Always Welcome



An organization like Women Who Write is only as effective as its members allow it to be. If you have a special talent or just enjoy helping other like-minded women, why not share with us all? We are always looking for talented women to help in many ways. Whatever your special skills, whether they are teaching, artistry, leadership, technological, hostess, decorating, or anything else, we are always looking for volunteers to help make our organization better and to provide for the good of our members. So think about what

you can offer to help; pair that idea with our Board Members, and share your wonderful talents to help make Women Who Write the best we can be. No talent is too small that it cannot help someone. If you are interested in helping out, please contact one of our Board Members. You can find their information at www.WomenWhoWrite.org. We look forward to having you join our team.

Thank you.

Success Stories

My picture book biography, *Hedy Lamarr's Double Life*, will be published by Sterling in Spring 2019. Laurie Wallmark.

www.lauriewallmark.com

Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code (Sterling, 2017)

Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine
(Creston Books, 2015)

Ann Frommer co-authored the 3rd book of the Tailgunner trilogy Victor Merkel is the other co-author. called Tailgunner-Pip, Legacy of War. ALSO, she is the author of four books, including the three in the tailgunner series. The other is "Annie Cooks" a cookbook for those who are lactose intolerant.



Sharing a success story: I had a CNF essay, "One Millimeter," published by the Manhattanville Review on Dec. 22, 2017, by Amy Simonson



Congratulations to Karen DelleCava who won the author of the month Pewter Plate award from Highlights for her February short story Alpha-BEST.

Karen will co-present "Spring into Children's Magazines" for the SCBWI MetroNY Professional Series on April 10th. Find ticket info here: <https://nymetro.scbwi.org/upcoming-events/>

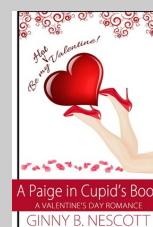
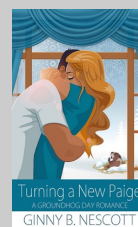
Hello fellow writers and authors!

Ginny Nescott here. In case you're wondering why you keep seeing my name, I've had some publishing success lately. The publisher "stacked" the release of my three novellas. Yes. Three books, three months! Everything needed to be completed in that time including manuscript changes, covers, blurbs, and promotional excerpts, all the while keeping up with holidays and family life.

Don't get me wrong. I'm thrilled by the experience and even more elated to have books published. It's a tickle and honor to bring a tidbit of humor and warmth to readers. Thank you for your support.

Who knows if my books will hide gathering e-dust or have some wings? I keep reading, and attending workshops to grow as an author. The biggest piece of advice given is to keep writing. I hope you do the same and find growth and success in it!

Website: <https://gbnescott.wixsite.com/ginnywrites>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GinnyBeGoodToMe
Twitter: [@GinnyBeGoodToMe](https://twitter.com/GinnyBeGoodToMe)
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Important News

Website Liaison

Anyone wishing to have something added or amended on our website, must go through our Liaison, who as you may or may not know, is currently Ginger Pate.

In order to save costs and not inconvenience our Webmaster, Andy Skurna, please send anything to Ginger's attention at webliasion@womenwhowrite.org. Please do not contact Andy, but send everything to Ginger. Thank you.

Save the Date

Our annual Writers' Conference is again going to be held at the Madison Community House in Madison, New Jersey and is scheduled for September 29, 2018. Please be sure to watch for complete details as they become available and will be posted on our website. We are working diligently on a very educational, inspiring and fun program. Hope to see you all there.

Happy Writing!

Editor's Note



As I begin my second term as the Editor of Writers' Notes, I want to thank those of you who have contributed your stories and comments. As you know, the main purpose of a newsletter is to inform, entertain, and educate. It is my hope that we have been achieving that goal.

In order to keep members up-to-date on what has been happening with Women Who Write, it is my intention to produce the newsletter on a quarterly (or at least close to it) basis. Of course, I cannot do it alone. It is important for all of our members to share, not only programs and achievements of our organization, but any other information that you feel might be of benefit to all (or even just to tickle our funny bones). If you attend one of our programs (or an outside group's), I ask that you provide a small write-up (with photos, if possible) to share with WWW. We want to encourage all of our members to share what they can to keep everyone abreast of what goes on in the Writing Community and to encourage others to do the same.

Since Writers' Notes is the official newsletter for Women Who Write, it is important to me to give everyone an opportunity to contribute, whether it be a lesson on writing, a success story, upcoming educational programs, Writing Conferences, anything you feel would be of interest, or just to network with other like-minded women.

Once again, join me in making our newsletter a successful, entertaining and educational endeavor. Any and all comments are welcome. Thank you and keep writing.

Maria Dewaik

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<http://www.womenwhowrite.org>

Or join us on Facebook

facebook

President's Critique Tour



"First stop, Poets' Corner on the DANA-PALOOZA Tour!" I said to myself while sampling a chocolate chip cookie that was my gift to these amazing women for allowing me to sit in with them while they do their monthly meeting of the minds with paper and pen in hands. I felt like a groupie who was getting a backstage pass or something like that! Really thrilled and ready to share a poem I have been working on and also critique some of the other poets work. So while I entered Cook Ave. it occurred to me that I could actually interview PC's

founding member, Maureen Haggerty, after the critiquing concluded and we were ready to part ways. So, with cookies and poetry in one hand and raincoat in the other I clunked my way up the three flights of steps to the tiny nook to the left of the stairs. I was impressed with this group's longevity, "thirteen years," and equally impressed with their long-term friendships and ease of

sharing incredible poems. I have to admit that I just wanted to melt into their talent; however, it felt just as nice to be welcomed so warmly. We ate the cookies and I shared an excellent poem by Sharon Olds, titled, "My Son the Man," explaining that I attended the Dodge Poetry Festival when it was hosted at Lafayette Village and got to hear Sharon read her poems. This particular poem reminds me of my son and we all got goosebumps. I love how incredible writing can make you feel like that! Maybe that's why

these talented women come together twice every month. It sure was a pleasure to listen, participate, and learn. Unfortunately, Maureen Haggerty was not able to be there that night. I did talk to her soon after about what she thought contributed to PC's longevity and excellent writing success. She commented, "You must be organized and confirm with members at least 48 hours in advance." She added, "Make sure there are at least three members in attendance." Maureen didn't say that they are bonded by each other's success stories and are huge fans of each other's style. That was my conclusion, as the rain started to pelt down on our cars and we decided to wrap up the gig for the night. "Next stop, Spooky ladies!" I will share with you about our experience together in the next WN.

Rock on and keep writing!

Dana