

Writers' Notes

The Newsletter of

News and Information for Women Who Write, Inc.



Women Who Write, Inc.

Volume 24, Issue 3

Winter 2018

President's Message by Dana Faulkner-Punzo



Season Greetings!

It has been an eventful year as your president, and I am very grateful to all members for your support. I hope Women Who Write has assisted every one of you in achieving your writing goals in 2018. I encourage you to check our website www.womenwhowrite.org before the New Year begins, so you can attend many of our workshops, and events in 2019. Our annual Winter Gathering will be January 13th at the Madison Community House.

This is a fantastic time to network with other members while enjoying some holiday cheer. We are listening to your suggestions throughout the year, and the board members and all our volunteers have been working like elves to cross off everything that is on your WWW wish list. I would like to extend the inner warmth that wells up inside me every time I encounter caring and sharing in our organization. I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy holiday.

Cheers!

Dana

Annual Writers' Conference Another Success

Our Writers' Conference of 2018 was a great success, thanks to the wonderful members of our Conference Committee and their hard work and dedication. These women went above and beyond in

providing us with talented speakers and educators. The workshops and lectures were well attended and very much enjoyed by all.



2018 WWW Writers' Conference Committee Members; Laurie Wallmark, Lisa Napolitano, Dana Faulkner-Punzo, Ginger Pate, and Kathleen Schumar. Missing from photo is Claudia Broglio

Without the generosity of our volunteers, many of whom gave up their precious time with family and other obligations, we would never have been able to pull off a successful event like this. Their dedication, love of writing, and selflessness is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank our new WWW Photographer, Sha Renee, for the wonderful photos she was able to capture of the conference.



Presidents of Women Who Write: Past and Present

It was an honor to pay homage to two of our remaining founding members at the Eighth Annual WWW Writers' Conference at the Madison Community House in September 2018. This conference was extra special because WWW also celebrated 30 years of existence! The picture below from the conference shows four WWW presidents: past and present. Ginger Pate, myself, Pat Weissner, "founding member," and Maureen Lanagan Haggerty. Thank you ladies for laying the bricks and mortar so this current president has solid ground to walk on. Mary Lee Waldron, our second founding member, was not able to attend the conference this year. **We missed you very much Mary Lee, and we hope to see you at the next conference!**

Dana



Dreaming of Writing by Fran Lolacono



I was a teenager who wanted to write. I did not know the first thing about writing a book so I did what I always do, I practiced and I researched the best I could. I am still practicing and I am still researching the best I can; I have read all the necessary texts: *On Writing*, *The Elements of Style*, and Meg Cabot's blog. By the time I was seventeen my dialogue was solid, it's still a point of pride for me that I can write a de-

cent conversation. My neighbor, a beautiful woman named Eleanor, took me to a group session that she said would help me, it was for a group called Women Who Write. I thought Yes! This is the group for me! I can bounce ideas off of them and make friends and be the youngest published author ever. I envisioned myself, talking about Mary Shelley over tea and how we may think we all have an edgy innovative author side to us, but we will never be 'using your late husband's calcified heart as a paper weight' type of edgy.

Obviously, I am not the youngest author ever, nor do I want to be, that would mean I peaked too early. Eragon franchise anyone? Besides it showed me that I had a lot to learn still. I always think I have a lot

to learn, I am usually right. Fast forward a few years and I graduated college with a degree in English and a catalog of what I called "brain crack ideas," and a significant amount of articles, papers, and short stories that remain crammed in my desk drawer regrettably collecting dust. With the ink barely dry on my diploma, I hit the ground running on the job market. The second I got a full time job, I looked into Women Who Write and asked about becoming a full-fledged member, I used part of my first paycheck to pay my dues. I'm so excited to finally be a part of this group, I just want to say thank you all, and I look forward to finding my group and being a fixture in this wonderful club. You guys want to get a cup of tea and talk about Mary Shelley, sometime?

Doris Parmett's Workshop by Megha Malhotra

Calling all interns! On October 14th, Doris Parmett, an award-winning, best-selling author, held a workshop on the Importance of First and Last Sentences in a Chapter. We all played the role of her intern and were asked to critique the first and last sentences of the initial chapter of a book. Like any good apprentice, we put on our thinking caps and dove in eager to learn.

Each "intern" assessed whether they would read their respective book further or toss it aside. This exercise zeroed in on how to captivate an audience using vivid imagery and "show, not tell" writing, right from the start. Ms. Parmett also provided a take-home packet of information which

armed us with the knowledge on how to make our own writing intriguing and a must-read.

Our internship with Ms. Parmett proved invaluable. Understanding how to approach writing with proper character development and attention-grabbing content is vital in an industry known to make snap decisions with the very first sentence in a book. We appreciate the time she took to enlighten and guide us.

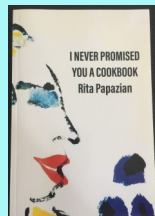
Even though Ms. Parmett is an excellent mentor and teacher, she is also a true inspiration whose own work ethic and creativity never sleep. She started her writing career in the 1980's and continues to write and be published today. Look for her up-

coming stories: *The Scam*, a play she recently wrote, which is scheduled for a table read by the Somerset Valley Players; and *No Guarantees*, which is being reviewed by Susan Littman at Harlequin. Her agent also has several more books in the pipeline for all to enjoy. Like Ms. Parmett, let's continue to create our own masterpieces.



I Never Promised You A Cookbook by Rita Papazian

I Never Promised You A Cookbook is a recently published book by WWW new member Rita Papazian. The memoir cookbook offers a collection of her family's recipes combined with the author's memoirs relating to cooking and the celebrity cookbook authors she has written about during her journalism career the past 40 years.. Among her favorites are Lidia



Bastianich, who is featured in her book, along with Rocco DiSpirito, Rachael Ray, and Mark Bittman, among others. Papazian encourages others to pass along their family recipes and memories through memoir-writing, from generation to generation. The book is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com for \$14.95.

WELCOME!

Welcome to our newest Critique Group, "Memoir Mavens," which will be meeting every other Wednesday from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. For more information and to join, please contact the Group's Coordinator, Kristin Elliott at kristin.e@verizon.net

Spring Writing Retreat by Dr. Juanita Kirton



Dr. Juanita Kirton recently accepted poem, "Rage," will appear in Mom Egg Magazine, Spring 2019

Juanita will direct a Spring Writing Retreat: "Crossing Boundaries" @ Kirkridge Retreat Center, Bangor, PA April 12-14, 2019. Cost \$435.00 includes: room, all meals & materials: Additional information and registration see link below:

<http://www.kirkridge.org/?e=event&eventId=30734&rDate=4/12/2019>

Crossing Boundaries: Spring Forward - A Spring Writing Retreat

Juanita Kirton, PhD.

"On good days I feel I am a bridge. On bad days I just feel alone," Sergio Troncoso writes in his collection of personal essays in which he seeks to connect the humanity of his Mexican family to people he meets on the East Coast, including his wife's Jewish kin.

As we approach spring and the renewal of life, dig deeper into your writing through story, memoir, poetry & prose. Explore craft through personal boundaries of beginnings, endings, power, community, country, environment, social and economic justice. Grapple with how your writing impacts the world. My inspiration is that this workshop will support us in coming to voice and recover what has been silenced and to empower each speaker.

Morris County Community School Workshop

The Morris School District Community School will offer "Memoir and Recipes," a five-part workshop series beginning Wednesday, April 25, 2019 from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at Frelinghuysen Middle School, 10 Jane Way, Morristown. The workshop continues May 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Registration for the workshop series begins after January 7, 2019 by accessing www.msdcommunityschool.org or by calling 973-292-2063, ext. 8315. Cost for the series is \$55, plus \$10 for materials.

Women Who Write member Rita Papazian, author of *I Never Promised You A Cookbook*, a memoir cookbook, will conduct the workshops on how to create a personal memoir featuring favorite recipes of present and past generations.

"Treasured recipes need to be passed along from generation to generation," Papazian says. "They reflect the family's culture as well as history, along with stories of the people who created them." She will show how to write the story behind a family recipe as well as offer strategies for memoir-writing, in general.

Papazian, a former journalist, public relations consultant and educator, is also author of *Remembering Fairfield, Connecticut: Famous People & Historic Places* and *Gioacchino: Memoir of an Italian Immigrant*. She is currently working on a second memoir, a collection of her news and feature articles as well as her columns published the past 30 years in a variety of publications including *The New York Times*.

Submitted by Rita Papazian

Coordinator's Meeting: Writing Groups and Grants by Maureen L. Haggerty

The Coordinator's Meeting was held at the Madison Community House on Saturday afternoon, October 27. Dana Faulkner-Punzo, President of WWW, and Olga Christie, Vice-President Membership, facilitated the two-hour meeting. Thirteen writing groups were represented. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage communication and sharing among the group Coordinators and with the WWW Board. The President and VP Membership assured the Coordinators of their interest in supporting long-standing groups as well as assisting in the formation of new groups.

Olga hopes to assist new members in finding the right writing group; she sees her role as "matchmaker." New members are encouraged to visit a writing group

twice; this gives the new member and the group an opportunity to see if this is a good match for the individual and the group.

Dana discussed the availability of grants for 2018-19. The five annual \$200 grants are for the purpose of encouraging writing groups to invite a guest speaker or a workshop presenter to their group meeting. A grant application form was provided in the Coordinator's packet of information. Dana encouraged the Coordinators to discuss the grant opportunity with their group members and to consider submitting their grant application as soon as possible. Grants are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The Board reviews the application and responds to the writing group. Dana emphasized that the grant-funded

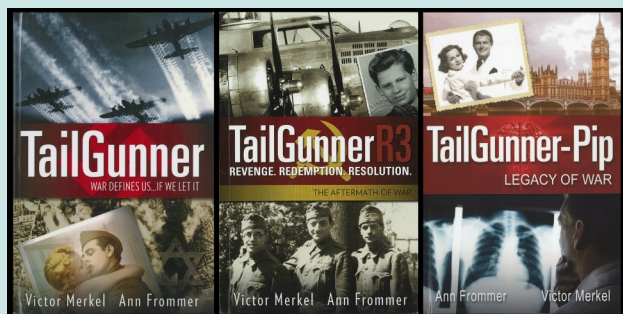
program must take place prior to May 1, 2019 as the grant funding comes from the current 2018-19 budget.

As a former President of WWW and an active member of the Poets' Corner writing group, I was very pleased to hear the writing groups are thriving and represent many genres. In closing, I hope each member is currently involved in a writing group or plans to explore joining a group. If you have any questions regarding writing groups, Olga Christie can be contacted at membership@womenwhowrite.org or 917-848-3864.



Olga Christie, V.P. Membership

Trilogy Gift Set by Ann Frommer



Our Tailgunner Trilogy will be contained as a boxed set. Hopefully, in time for holiday giving. Victor Merkel, my co-author & I make a few changes in our books, more editing, etc. & feel they will be a welcome gift for historical & historical romance lovers.

Writing Opportunity



Marianne Chester, Co-Founder of Kaleidoscope™, A Reflection on Women's Journeys™, has announced that they are running a Holiday Story Contest. Submission Criteria and Prize information can be found - [https://](https://www.kaleidoscopewojo.com/take-action/)

www.kaleidoscopewojo.com/take-action/

They also have a Facebook page and hope that you might take a moment to like them. <https://www.facebook.com/Kaleidoscope-WoJo-188435748422369/>

Coming Programs and Events

How to Fire up a Dynamic Plot

Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 1:30 pm at NP Library.



Program to be presented by Elissa Matthews

In a good story, the characters act and react, they struggle for something, they fight and win, or they fight and lose and rise again. This is called, boringly, "the plot." When put together by a captivating storyteller, the plot comes to life as a dynamic page-turner that we go back to again and again. We all know the problems of early drafts, though, where we realize we've written a scene that goes nowhere.

This program will show you why that happens, and how to deal with it. We will take apart some of our most beloved story classics and line up their key elements against the plot structures laid out in popular writing textbooks. In the end, we'll have a common framework for a dynamic plot that you can build into your own storytelling.

The Wounded Mind: Fiction, Character Development, and Mental Illness

A workshop to be held on March 2, 2019 –1:30 pm at The New Providence Memorial Library. Presented by: **Dr. Nancy Gerber**



In this workshop we will explore the challenges of writing about characters with mental and emotional disorders. Examples of mood, thought, and personality disorders will be presented and discussed. There will be also be an opportunity to write and share a short piece based on the material. This program is open to anyone with an interest in the subject; professional training is not required.

Winter Gathering to be held at Madison Community Center, January 13, 2019 at NP Library. 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Goldfinch Launch to be held March 30, 2019 at NP Library, 377 Elkwood Ave., New Providence, NJ

Women Who Write Website



A reminder to all that our Directory is found online on our website at www.WomenWhoWrite.org. To access, click on the tab on the right side of the page that says **PRIVATE**. The password to use is "Member." The directory will have all the information you need about our organization, including coming programs and workshops. Please take some time to read through the pages to familiarize yourself with all that we strive to offer our membership, along with some very important information.

Anyone with an interest to present a member program or workshop, please contact our web liaison

Ginger Pate at
(webliason@womenhowrite.org)

Volunteers



We are also seeking volunteers for our Conference Committee. If you are interested or would like more info, please contact

Dana Faulkner-Punzo at
(president@womenhowrite.org)

Speaking of Writing by Olga Christie

Ronnie Hammer, a long-standing member of Women Who Write with a successful professional development career and a lady of proper manners, delighted and informed about effective public speaking on October 27th.

The workshop was a series of insights about presentation structure, practical tips on presentation notes, advice on body language and the importance of making eye contact with the audience. At the end of the lecturette, each participant got the chance to practice what they learned and receive feedback. Some read excerpts from their own work in preparation for a public reading, others shared an introduction to their work in preparation for a panel discussion or another event. I practiced talking to an audience about my role at WWW. Our VP Social Media, Joanne Flynn Black, video recorded— an additional medium of self-evaluation available upon request.

Member workshops are a great opportunity to get excited about your writing and connect with other women who write. Don't miss out on learning something new at our next event!



Editor's Note:



For this holiday edition of our newsletter this year, it is my wish to all of you to enjoy the very best that the world can give you and hope you continue in your writing endeavors, wishing you all much success.

As the second half of my second term as Editor begins, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the wonderful and talented women I have met through this amazing organization. It has been a privilege and an honor serving you all and hopefully, I have thus far achieved my goal to be not only informative but entertaining and educational as well.

A special thank you to all who contributed in making Writers' Notes an explosion of news and information for our writers. I very much appreciate the hard work that you all put into these articles and the brilliant way of describing our talented presenters and programs. I especially want to thank our wonderful Board Members for working together so diligently and tirelessly in making Women Who Write a truly helpful, compassionate, and understanding organization where women of all walks of life can get together and help each other to fulfill their dream of writing. Thank you to Dorothy Ryan. Your expertise in copy editing has been immeasurable in helping to make our newsletter as nice as it is.

Whether you are a beginner with a dream of becoming an author or an expert writer with many books and articles, or just looking to network and socialize, there is a kinship and camaraderie amongst us all that is truly wonderful. For whomever may follow in my footsteps as the next Editor, I wish you well and hope you enjoy the position as much as I do now. Good luck and wishing success to all.

May you all continue to write and make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Maria Dewaik
Editor,
Writers' Notes

A Few Comments from this year's Conference Attendees

"It was full of great advice and nuggets to further my writing."

"Really helpful, pragmatic sessions — Donna Galanti's sharing experience was very real and helpful to know what to expect."

Thought Donna Galanti was generous with the information in her presentation

and with her handouts."

"I really got so much out of all. I love the critiques."

"Prose was strong and varied and presented new materials, not done before. Good solid fun craft presentations and discussions."

"It exceeded expectations."

"As usual, well organized, flowed easily, enough time between segments, good starting time."

"Everything went smoothly and information was beneficial."

"Great energy this year among the participants."

2018 Writers Conference Photos by Sha Renée

Our conference was a huge success and for those of you who couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you at our next conference. Please enjoy these photos that were taken by our talented new Women Who Write Photographer, Sha Renée.

