

Writers' Notes

News and Information for Women Who Write, Inc. members

The Newsletter of



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Dana Faulkner-Punzo
President, WWW

President's Message By Dana Faulkner-Punzo

Being a member of Women Who Write has provided an incredible opportunity of growth for me, from my first time volunteering as Co-Coordinator of a writers group to becoming a Board member and Co-Chair of the Conference and now President. I look forward to serving this creative community that is bonded by an incredible craft we all love. As I develop my writing I invite you

all to do likewise in the New Year. I am so fortunate to be a part of a hard working Board that tries to keep WWW an organization that provides an abundance of events for its writers. Our Board's collective vision is to plant your creative seeds and watch them grow into personal aspirations and writing fulfillment. We are a community that gathers together throughout the year to share our experiences. This I

feel makes us unique and strong as an organization. I am ecstatic and grateful for this opportunity to serve you as President. Enjoy the holiday season and please keep us posted about "everything writing!"

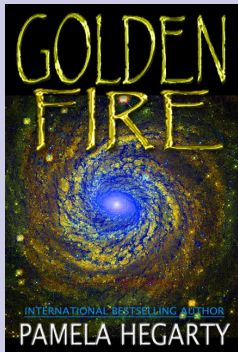
Let yourself be silently drawn by the stronger pull of what you really love. Rumi

With Heart, Dana

Goldenfire—Book 3

of Pamela Hegarty's High Stakes History Thriller out on Amazon January 2018

In *Goldenfire*, historian Christa Devlin is in the most high stakes quest of her life—to find the Goldenfire, the power within the Ark of the Covenant. But this mission soon becomes personal, thrusting her into the mystery surrounding her mother's death. To succeed, Christa must regain the faith that she has lost. To survive, she must confront her deepest fear.



The Straight Spouse By Vivian Fransen



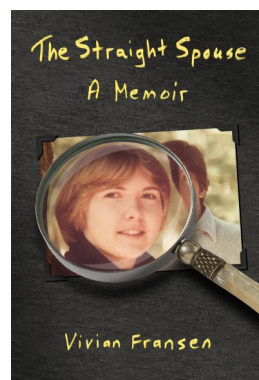
"Oooh, hot off the press."

"Behold, my book is born!" says Longtime WWW member Vivian Fransen. "It's nothing short of euphoria to hold my book in my arms. It's been a long road to write, 'revise, revise, revise,' and then prepare my book for publication. Naturally, I credit Women Who Write in my Acknowledgments for all the encouragement I've received over the years."

My book, "The Straight Spouse: A Memoir," is a love story about a young woman who is married to a man who turns out to be gay—and how she deals with the truth in unexpected ways. This story takes place in the early 1990s. Vivian hastens to add her book is about being married to her former husband, not her beloved husband Bob with the moustache who cheers her on at nearly every WWW event when she reads her work aloud.

For more information, visit her website at: straightspousememoir.com

Published by Open Door Publications this summer (2017), Vivian's book is available at upcoming WWW events or at amazon: <http://amzn.to/2vBgQdv>



On Monday, October 9th, Vivian visited the Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County (GAAMC) to discuss her new book, "The Straight Spouse: A Memoir."

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

7th Annual Writers' Conference—Members Comments



Thank you to everyone who put the time in to make this event happen. I had a morning event and got a babysitter just so I could attend the afternoon session and closing remarks, but it seemed smooth and flawless. The closing author was very inspirational. The fruit and cake were

delicious.

I very much enjoyed the Yoga for writers session. The instructor was wonderful and every word she said was like food to my body. In the written exercise about stressors, I learned dealing with my special needs child stresses me out. I had no idea. Also had no idea writing would be #1 on my happy list.

Since my book (still writing it) is about raising a child on the spectrum this was very supportive and helpful.

Mary Ann Cece



It is my great privilege to extend my gratitude for the annual Women Who Write Conference. I look forward to the

Conference every year. It *is* the highlight of my entire year!

Attending the conference inspires and motivates me. I am so blessed to be a part of an organization with the kindness and most supportive women. There are so many various dynamic speakers, who provide the most useful and helpful information which we all utilize in the journey of writing and publishing and helps us move forward in obtaining our dreams and goals of becoming published authors.



I am most grateful for Ginger Pate, she has been so supportive in my journey as a writer with unsurpassed kindness. I am very fortunate for her friendship. Women Who Write are so blessed to have had her as our President.

Thank you, Ginger and all those who have tirelessly organized the WWW Conference every year.



I am blessed to be a part of this organization.

Jodi Airel

It was my first conference. I loved it! I was very impressed by Elizabeth Barrett. I joined WWW less than a year ago, and WWW opened a window to the world of literature for me. I learned a lot, I became a better writer, and I have more confidence in myself. I am grateful to the members of WWW for all they taught me, especially to my group leader, Mary Olmsted. She kindly accepted me into the group, even though the group was already full. She gave me valuable advice on which I feed continuously. In my mind, I refer to Mary as my good fairy.



Is it a big project to organize a conference. Many volunteers donated their time and energy to make it happen. I want to express my

gratitude to all of them.

Anat Schmulovich



I recently became a member of the Women Who Write organization. Each aspect of my first conference has completely met

my expectations including the opening session, how to write a cover letter and first pages. I particularly enjoyed hearing from Doris Parnett. I found her talk to be informative, entertaining and inspiring. I enjoyed learning about her process for writing as well as the importance of doing your research to avoid "gotcha" moments. I enjoyed listening to her talk about the important relationships she has built as a writer, including her editor and police resource. Overall, I feel more prepared for my personal journey as a writer. I look forward to attending future conferences. Thank you!"

Michelle Skelly

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Women Who Write would like to give a special thank you to Juanita Kirton for doing a terrific job of photographing our conferences and events for the past seven years. She will

be retiring so if you love photography and would like to volunteer, please contact our President, Dana Faulkner-Punzo at WomenWhoWrite.org.

Maureen Lanagan Haggerty's New Poetry Book

Maureen's poetry book, *Deeply Home*, was recently published. Family, nature, Ireland, and friendship are the significant themes that appear in her poems. Her work has previously appeared in *Off the Coast*, *EXIT 13*, *Out & About*, *If Only You Knew*, *Goldfinch Literary Magazine*, *The Tower Poets 1998–2013*, *Full of Moonlight*, and *A Splash of Water*. She is a past president of Women Who Write and a founding member of Madison Poets' Corner. Maureen can be contacted at DeeplyHome@att.net.



Bottle Hill Day by Maria Dewaik



This year, WWW was privileged to take part in the annual Bottle Hill Day in Madison, NJ. This is a big event with a car show, food vendors, crafts, and entertainment and is attended by thousands.

Our Published Authors' Group had a table at the event and offered their published books for sale in addition to publicizing our organization and what we try to do.

Thank you to Elissa Matthews who did a great job of not only setting up, but organizing the entire day. The weather was great although a bit warm, but we had fun spreading the word about Women Who Write. There were quite a few people interested and we handed out brochures explaining all about us, how to join and we talked about the upcoming Conference.

Poetry and Pastries Grand Finale By Marcia Ivans

November 14, 2017. And so it is with Poetry and Pastries. The last sixteen years have been a wonderful gift to me. Having so many of you share your poetry and all those who chose to come and just listen made the anticipation of each night of Poetry and Pastries fill with me with excitement. It has been a pleasure to hear those who read for the first time and those who have years of experience reading their poems. I thank all of you who have supported Poetry and Pastries.

Thanks, Marcia



Self Published Authors Panel—By Donna M. Pryer

The Self Published Authors Panel Discussion led by Vivian Fransen, included the following members of *Women Who Write*: Ann Frommer of Chatham, Alice Lazzarini of Mendham, Deborah Gerrish of Murray Hill, Marcia Ivans of Pompton Plains, and Maria Dewaik of Hazlet, all of whom are published authors who serve in volunteer leadership roles for *Women Who Write*.

Vivian opened the discussion with the first on her list of questions for the five panel members; the reason for turning to indie publishing. Other topics included the approach used, the length of time between making the decision to go this route to the product delivery date, curveballs encountered - if any, how each author defines success, the amount of financial investment needed, pro-

motion methods and information, and the role the *Woman Who Write* organization played in their decision making and self-publishing process.

In general the consensus was that all five authors were glad they self-published, as time was a critical factor in their decision making for various reasons, although they did admit that the marketing step of the process was their least favorite part.

When asked what role *Women Who Write* played with regard to each of the published authors' success, all five panel members conveyed that the input they have received and the friendships they've made have been invaluable to them and to their success as writers. To this point, Maria summed it up with the following response: "Joining the

Women Who Write was the best thing that happened to me. Since writers work in isolation it helps to interact with individuals who share the same passion and goals." Additionally, she pointed out that it has helped her to know not only what she is doing right but what she is doing wrong as well.

The meeting ended with a session of questions from the audience for which all five panelists were happy to answer. This panelist discussion was extremely informative and helpful to all in attendance and I can honestly say that I too am glad to be a member of this fine organization, the *Women Who Write*.



A Matter of Chance by Julie Maloney



Julie is proud to announce the publication of her debut novel, *A Matter of Chance*.

National Book Tour starts April 22, 2018 at Bernardsville Public Library,

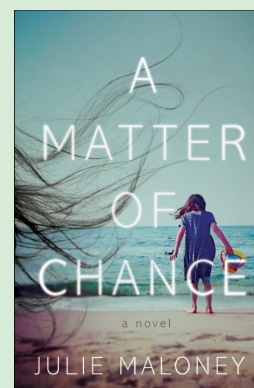
To learn more about the Author and the Book, please visit

www.juliemaloney.net

What Reviewers are saying:

Julie Maloney's *A Matter of Chance* captures the desperate heartache of a mother's unthinkable loss in haunting, beautiful prose. Maloney's vividly etched characters immediately drew me into this suspenseful, emotionally stirring novel. *A Matter of Chance* is not to be missed."

--Heather Gudenkauf, NYT Bestselling author of *The Weight of Silence* and *Not A Sound*.



Success Stories

Dorothy Ryan's poem "La Fantasia" will appear in the Murphy Writing anthology, *Challenges for the Delusional: Part II*

Dorothy Ryan submitted a review on Amazon for Marion Goldstein's book, "Embracing the Sign" which was mentioned in the Summer/Fall edition of Writers' Notes.

The publishing rights to Laurie Wallmark's book, *Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code* have been sold to China, Japan, and Korea

Laurie Wallmark was interviewed by NJ Monthly Magazine and an article about her will be published in the February edition.

Juanita Kirton was recently published in an anthology entitled: *Nasty Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse*,

Eileen Valinoti had an essay, "Plague Season" published this Fall in an online magazine. "Intima: AJofNM."

Upcoming Programs and Events

Please check our website at www.WomenWhoWrite.org for complete details and up-to-date information, along with registration if any.

Winter Gathering — Sunday, January 21, 2018 — Members only at Cosy Cupboard Tea Room.

Indie Publishing — Pamela Hegarty, WWW Member will be discussing Indie Publishing — Saturday, January 27, 2018 at New Providence Memorial Library — 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Spring Into Children's Magazines — Karen DellaCava, Member, will lead a special program at the New Providence Memorial Library on March 3, 2018. from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop — Poet Deborah Gerrish, WWW Member, will host a member program to be held at the New Providence Memorial Library on April 8, 2018. She will explain how "Ekphrastic writing is when one art responds to another art. As a writer, you will be crafting poems inspired by visual masterpieces."

Goldfinch Launch Party — Join Goldfinch Editor, Mary ann Mosa for the celebration of this year's WWW's Literary Journal, March 25, 2018. Invitations with details will be emailed to members.

WRITERS' NOTES, THE NEWSLETTER OF WOMEN WHO WRITE

Sweating it Out in Critique Groups by Diane Masucci

It takes courage to join an organization like Women Who Write. Just plopping down your \$45 annual fee is a public promise to yourself that you will write and perhaps you will participate in one of the critique groups. You might even write something.

To bravely endure a critique is even more challenging.

I will never forget how I felt after having submitted a short story to my Master's class. Friends had read it and liked it. But the professor told me I blew the plot by revealing, too soon, details before my pro-

tagonist became unraveled in the agonizing awareness that he had run over a child with his big truck. Ouch! I failed!

But back home, my husband of many years parroted the wisdom of his Little League baseball coach: "You can't hit the ball if you never swing."

The lesson? Write your heart out. When you are in a critique group, listen to your trusted colleagues who will tell you what works.

And, of course, we have to keep on swinging!

Thank You by Ginger Pate Outgoing President

I want to thank all of you for letting me be your WWW President for the last 4 1/2 years. Getting to know and become friends with so many of you was a joy for me.

I was lucky as President to have had the pleasure of working with wonderful Board members.

Thank you so much for the honor of receiving the plaque given to me at our Conference. I was extremely surprised and grateful

I've passed down the gavel now and it's to someone who has the right heart for WWW, Dana Faulkner-Punzo. I couldn't be happier about that!

