

Writers' Notes

The Newsletter of



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President's Message by Ginger Pate

Dear Members,

My article this month deals with building and maintaining relationships.

Never did I imagine that the newly formed Published Authors' Group (PA) would have such a wonderful snowballing effect on WWW in a very short time. After only a few months, Ronnie Hammer and then Carol Van Den Hende presented well received programs for our PA Group. The Group was then invited by Short Stories Bookshop and Community Hub in Madison to have our first ever WWW Book sale. Short Stories was very pleased with the event. Our authors sold 46 books that day. We began to build a relationship with the bookshop. The event was even more successful because all the authors were kind, caring and supportive of each other. At the next PA meeting, the authors then agreed that any further programs sponsored by the PA Group would be offered to all members. Why not share the wealth, they said. We now have two more member programs scheduled by presenters Laurie Wallmark and



Carol Van Den Hende.

Our relationship with the New Providence Library continues and gets stronger. Last year, WWW started building on our relationship with the New Providence Library when the library sponsored our Goldfinch Launch. The library was so pleased with the Launch that they are going to sponsor it again on Sunday, March 26th. The relationship will grow even stronger soon. I spoke to the Library Director recently and told her how WWW appreciates the library in allowing us to have our programs there. I asked how we can show that appreciation. She thought it would be wonderful for the library if the PA Group was willing to let employees and patrons of the library attend our member programs for free. This would be a win-win for both.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their support and understanding as I finish my second and final term as President at the end of April. WWW is on very solid ground. Just as important, for me, I've been the lucky one to have met and built so many relationships within WWW. I am so grateful for that privilege. Thank you.

WWW First Ever Book Sale Event A Success by Maria Dewaik



On December 3, 2016, WWW's Published Authors Group held its very first Meet and Greet, Book Signing and Sale. Ginger Pate, the group's leader and WWW President, did a terrific job in setting up this event, only months after the group formed.

The event was held at the Short Stories Bookshop and Community Hub, in a beautiful historic building in Madison, New Jersey. For many of us, it was the first time to actually sell our books in a bookstore. Not only was it loads of fun, but it was also a wonderful learning experience. The authors worked in shifts, greeting customers while some went out to lunch together, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other and exchange

ideas and stories.

The owners of the bookshop were gracious and lovely hosts, and provided us with enough space to showcase our books, giving us plenty of room to allow customers to browse and ask questions.

Considering how quickly this event was put together, it went quite well. At least now we have a better idea of how to prepare for the next one and how to market it more completely. As for me, I eagerly await the next book sale, and hope my current work in progress will be ready by then.



Winter Gathering 2017

by Jodi Young-Airel

This year's Winter Gathering at Café Beethoven presented a welcome element of surprise with the fall of billowy white snow, just enough to feel like a Winter Wonderland. Walking up the front steps into Café Beethoven with its historic ornate architecture, you feel like you're stepping into another era.

As I was sitting by the window, catching a glimpse of the falling snow, I remarked to one of my fellow writers, "This is a perfect day to sit home in front of the fireplace and write." There is something magical about the white feathery snow falling slowly to the ground. It is quite inspiring.

With a slight glitch in the weather conditions, we had fewer people than expected; about 15 attended, where we usually have a turnout of approximately 40 guests. Yet, with the small gathering, we had the luxury of visiting and chatting with our authors, playwrights, novelists, poets and creative writers of all genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, poetry and spiritual or religious works. One of the most outstanding qualities I have found is that our members in Women Who Write have a very special bond. The women support each other and



help and guide any way they can to move and uplift their "sisters" to higher levels in writing and to the next step of publishing.

We had tasty hors d'oeuvres of vegetables, assorted cheeses, and crackers, along with a scrumptious lunch of quiche, assorted finger sandwiches of tuna, turkey, and cheese, wraps with sirloin and cheese, salad greens with feta cheese and walnuts – topped with balsamic dressing. The orzo salad was delicious with feta cheese and walnuts and various savory spices.

The pièce de résistance of desserts included fresh fruit, a rich chocolate ganache cake, and Italian sprinkled vanilla cookies, along with other assorted cookies, topped off with my favorite, a hot cappuccino with frothy milk or a creamy cold latté.

Ginger made up a little game for a drawing to win a gift. With this par-

ticular game, we all seemed to have a glitch in our calculation of math, which made us chuckle. Karen Stober won the prize of an excellent bottle of wine. Congratulations!

The importance of the annual Winter Gathering is that

it allows us to congregate together, collaborate and share our ideas and encourage each other. We exchanged various ideas in writing and publishing and other matters we would like to explore to aid us in our journey of writing and publishing. Ginger gave us a list of future programs that will be offered this year for members of Women Who Write. (see schedule on page 3.)

The Annual Winter Gathering 2017 was a great success! It provided more opportunities to grow and learn from each other, as well as support each other for Women Who Write.

Thank you, Marcia Ivans, Ginger Paté, and Cherie Pritchett (VP Programs) for your time and tireless efforts in coordinating this delightful annual event. We hold your labors and love for the art of writing for Women Who Write in the highest regard.



A Note from the Editor



As we all know, writing can sometimes be an extremely lonely career. That's why belonging to a group like Women Who Write is very important. Not just for the camaraderie we share, but also for idea sharing, feedback, education and the occasional social gatherings.

Belonging to a group like WWW affords us the opportunity to meet women from all walks of life, with many different aspirations and dreams. The different groups provide a valuable tool in helping each and every one of us to learn and grow from each other by exposing us to different experiences, genres, and styles of writing, allowing us to touch on subjects we might not, otherwise, approach.

Our goal at WWW is to encourage and support each other and help to make each and every member a success in their writing goals and dreams. To make each member realize that what they have to say, **is** important and **does** make a difference. Keep on writing and changing the world. Maria Dewaik

Events to be held at New Providence Library

The following programs will be held at the New Providence Library

February 25th* — Laurie Wallmark — Nitty Gritty Marketing Tips — Cost: Free to all members — Marketing takes more time, energy, and money than you could ever imagine. Find out the basics in this informative talk.

March 18th — Ilene Beckerman—Love, Loss, Writing, and What I Know and Don't Know. Cost—\$20

March 26th — Goldfinch Launch—2017 launch of the Women Who Write's Literary Journal

May 6th*— Carol Van Den Hende—Design as Art: 3 Professional Principles of Book Cover Design.— Cost: Free to all members

October 21st — Writer's Conference

*Programs that are offered by Published Authors' Group Members are free to all members.

Story Structure 101 by Sarah Ducksworth

Dr. LaJoyce Brookshire gave a wonderful workshop for WWW in New Providence on February 4th. As an ordained minister, a doctor of naturopathy, a master herbalist, and an acclaimed author, Dr. Brookshire has an interesting diverse background.

She began her career as a publicist handling such high profile entertainers as Sean 'Diddy' Combs, Aretha Franklin and The Notorious B.I.G. Following her muse, she segued into writing across genres, penning essays and novels and a memoir.

She is best known for her bestselling novel, Soul Food, which became a highly rated movie and the inspiration for a popular television series in the 90s.

Her latest book, 'Faith Under Fire' chillingly details her marriage to a man who concealed from her that he had full blown AIDS and her miraculous non-HIV status.

The WWW members who attended The workshop came away pleased and inspired. Dr. Brookshire focused on how to shape a story and work toward never having a bad writing day.



A Presentation on Branding by Maria Dewaik



This past September, Carol Van Den Hende, a member of WWW, presented a program on branding. She explained the importance of branding and what it means to each of us in order to promote ourselves as authors. She showed us ways to "stand out in the crowd" by taking something of yourself and making it into a visual aid to help sell yourself and your books. Carol talked about archetypes and how to use that information to guide your branding decisions. She covered brand compass framework as a tool and the importance of consistency in visual branding. Carol was assisted by her young, and very capable son, Alex. It was an enlightening program. Be sure to catch Carol in her next presentation on Book Cover Design. (See schedule above.)

A Tale of Two Critiques by Lisa Napolitan

Two readers can mean two vastly different opinions. That's a wonderful thing, especially when having your work looked at by agents and editors.

At last October's conference, I submitted the same piece for critiques by a literary agent, Marisa Corvisiero, and editorial assistant, Elizabeth May. My meeting with Ms. Corvisiero was in the morning, Ms. May end of the day.

The work submitted, the opening chapter from my in-progress novel, is well, let's just say, non-traditional and so I was prepared. "Hard to sell," "too verbose," "no commercial appeal" all anticipated responses. After all, agents look at so many submissions and surely read them quickly, and my work, non-linear with long sentences and a virtually plot-less approach, was ripe for rebuke.

About agents and editors, they can surprise you. Ms. Corvisiero does receive towering stacks of submissions, but she reads closely and with great care. She took the time to understand my work, fall into its rhythm. She made suggestions that made sense to me. In other words, she "got it." She offered pitch angles and ultimately asked to see the work once completed. I walked out of that meeting with a profound sense of worth and a burning desire to finish the manuscript.

My end-of-day meeting with Ms. May was much different. "Too wordy," "confusing," "too poetic." No matter. I was still on cloud nine.

Bottom line: Believe in your work and there is an agent or editor out there who will believe in it too.

Success Stories

Karen DelleCava sold 2 short stories to Highlights in early 2016 and is currently working with an editor there on a third.

Maureen Lanagan Haggerty's poem "Tuam, County Galway" was recently published in *EXIT* 13, Issue #22-2016



Marcia Ivans will be hosting her Poetry and Pastries open poetry reading on April 4th at Café Beethoven as she has been for 13 years.

She will be one of the featured poets reading at Diane Lockward's "Girl Talk" in West Caldwell on March 18th.

Also, she was interviewed about her books on the local TV station where she currently resides.



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WRITERS' NOTES, THE NEWSLETTER