

WRITERS IN THE SKY

Newsletter



Whether you are a published author or a writer-wanna-be, this e-zine is for you. Here, you will find articles about all types of writing, publishing, and book marketing; plus we feature articles written by our readers. Our goal is to connect the writing and publishing community through networking that benefits both. Brought to you by Write On! Creative Writing Services.

Volume 3 ~ Issue 9

You are receiving this because you signed up for it or someone thought you would enjoy the free information about writing, publishing and book publicity. If you didn't enjoy this newsletter and do not wish to continue to receive it, you may unsubscribe by clicking the link at the bottom of the newsletter. Please forward this ezine to anyone you know who needs free articles, announcements, book reviews, poetry, and information about the craft and business of writing, publishing and book marketing.

AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY

I don't understand those who say they get writer's block. There's always something to write about, whether it's a bad day at work or a celebration for a family member. I used my vacation journal to create 12 articles. I made at least three articles out of my experience in remodeling my kitchen and we aren't done yet! If you are writing these story-like pieces, you may as well get some marketing mileage out of them and post them on article directories. I used the articles from my two-week vacation in Palm Springs, California and turned them into an eBook. If you would like to have the eBook to use as a gift to those who visit your Web site or blog, [let me know](#) and I will send it to you at no cost.

I've been participating in an article challenge with nearly 60 other writers. The challenge to write 30 articles in 60 days began August 1 and will end September 30. I have reached my goal and look forward to receiving my second Golden PJs Award. Please use them if you need content for your Web site or blog. http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Yvonne_Perry

I'm starting another [blog chain](#) and I'm looking for twelve people who have a blog and want to participate in a fun group activity. Each participant will visit the blog of each person on the chain within a one-week period. When visiting the blog, you will read and comment on several posts that interest you. By leaving your name and the URL of your blog in the comment, you have established a link back to your blog or Web site. To sign up for the blog chain, [send me an email](#).

Our team's graphic designer, Jessica Dockter and I collaborate on many projects that need both writing and design. Our latest project is a recipe eBook for the WITS community (that's YOU!) We're off to a good start, but we need more of you to contribute recipes to make it more exciting. So far we have Bloody Marys on a Stick, Red Wine Cola, Less-Sweetened Fruit Tea and Marinated Mushrooms! Email Jessica at leedesign@leedesign.org with your favorite summer drink or snack recipe and make sure you include your bio and a link to your Web site or blog so you will get credit for your entry. When the book is finished, all our newsletter subscribers will get a (PDF) of the eBook as a gift. Deadline is October 1.



I'm going on a book tour, and I'm not even leaving home! I'm doing a virtual blog tour for my book *RIGHT TO RECOVER* *Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America*. Be sure to read Nikki Leigh's article to learn more about this and how you can be part of this journey.

Do you enjoy using a video camera? Would you like to enter a contest and possibly win \$1,000? Jamie Beckett and Write On! Creative Writing Services has joined efforts to produce the Short Adaptation Film Contest. All you have to do is read *Burritos and Gasoline* by Jamie Beckett (a copy of the book is provided with the \$25 entry fee) and create a video depicting any scene or single storyline from the book. Shoot for drama, comedy, suspense, horror, romance or any combination you wish. Our only limitation being that you shoot with an "R" rating or lower as your guideline. The Short Adaptation Film Contest commences on September

1, 2007. All submissions must be postmarked no later than midnight, March 21, 2008. So fire up that imagination and get cracking! Your adaptation just might be the one our judges have been waiting for.

As always, you may view the PDF version of this issue as well as archived issues of this newsletter at <http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writers-in-the-Sky-Newsletter.html>

Yvonne Perry is a freelance writer and the owner of Write On! Creative Writing Services. She is a graduate of American Institute of Holistic Theology where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Metaphysics. She began her full-time writing career in 2003 and has since written more than twenty books.



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In This Issue

- AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY
- What is a Virtual Book Tour?
- Write On! Good News"
- Trust. Let Go. Leap...Writing in Free/Flow
- Writers in the Sky is Going to the Movies!
- How a Published Author Can Become a Paid Public Speaker
- Newsworthy Nuggets from Nightengale Press
- Do you Need Articles for your Blog or Web site?
- A PLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUR BOOK
- Writers in the Sky Podcast
- Natalie Goldberg Writing Workshop
- Poetry Corner
- Behind the Scenic Route of a Virtual Book Tour
- NETWORK WITH US
- Writing to Weave the Spell
- The Writing Life by JJ Murphy: Writing is a Sensory Experience
- Past Issues of Writers in the Sky Newsletter

What is a Virtual Book Tour?

A virtual book tour is a way to have a book tour, without leaving your home or the extreme expense of traveling to visit book stores. Instead, a virtual book tour gives you a chance to visit blogs around the world. Each blog you visit will expose your books to different visitors who have a wide variety of interests.

The author doesn't have to travel to the store to share information about their book and potential readers can learn about your book in more detail from the comfort of their home. More and more people are shopping and researching their future purchases online, so offering this kind of exposure for books online makes a lot of sense.

Each tour stop is scheduled for a different day. The author visits each blog and this simply means that the blog owner has asked the author a list of questions or they may chose to share a chapter or an excerpt from the book. Various blog hosts give additional dimension to the tour. Each blog host will pose different questions and this can offer a lot of variety to the tour.

Each day of the tour gives potential readers a wealth of information about the author, their experience, and their book. Many of these days, the tour stops are posted on a blog and we invite blog readers to ask questions. You can post your question on the blog or email the author. We love to hear from people who are interested in our books. In these days where the cost of gas is increasing, this is a great way to meet different authors and to learn much more about their books.

Dorothy Thompson and Nikki Leigh have arranged Yvonne Perry's virtual book tour. Here is the schedule. I hope you will stop by and leave a comment on any or all of these blogs:

Sept. 3 – The Writer's Life www.thewriterslife.blogspot.com

Sept. 4 – Pump Up You Online Book Promotion www.pumpupyouronlinebookpromotion.blogspot.com

Sept. 5 – Family, Fun and Faith – <http://communati.com/main/blog/familyfunandfaith>

Sept. 6 – Plug Your Book www.plugyourbook.blogspot.com

Sept. 7 – Be My Guest! www.bloggingauthors.blogspot.com

Sept. 10 – The Story Behind the Books www.thestorybehindthebooks.blogspot.com

Sept. 11 – Start with the Facts – <http://startwithfacts.blogspot.com/>

Sept. 13 – Start at the Beginning - <http://startatbeginning.blogspot.com/>

Sept. 14 – Publishing Secrets for Authors - www.publishingsecretsofauthors.blogspot.com

Sept. 17 – Straight from the Author's Mouth www.straightfromtheauthorsmouth.blogspot.com

Sept. 18 – Inspired Author Self Promotion - <http://inspiredauthor.com/v3/node/12>

Sept. 20 – Author Talks www.authortalks.blogspot.com

Sept. 24 - Cheryl Malandrinos - <http://thebookconnectionccm.blogspot.com/>

Sept. 25 – Judge Cover - <http://judgebookbycover.blogspot.com>

Sept. 27 – Muze's Musings – www.muzesmusings.blogspot.com

Nikki Leigh, Fiction Author

Promotional Consultant and Tour Coordinator

Author of Book Promo 101 – Basics of Book Promotion Nov 2007

www.nikkileigh.com/book_promo_101.htm

Owner of S & C Consulting – www.sandcconsulting.com

Nikki Leigh is the pen name of Shri Henkel, who has over 20 years of business management and over 16 years of promotional experience. This background has been very helpful with the business books written by Shri Henkel. She has eight books in print

and several more scheduled for release in 2007.

Under her pen name, she writes fiction and is releasing the first book in the *Book Promo 101* series. She offers a wide range of business, writing, ghostwriting services, in addition to promotional services and virtual tour coordination for writers.

Feel free to contact Nikki for more information at nikki_leigh22939@yahoo.com.



[Write On Creative Writing Services](#) Staff writer, Rosi Stewart, recently wrote a media release for a client. She posted it on PRWeb.com one Thursday and the release received over 100,000 (yes, that is 5 zeros!) hits within the first 4.5 days. This client had never had a release go over 50,000 hits in such a short amount of time. And, the only time she ever had a release go close to 100,000 hits is when it had been on the website for 6 months.

Rosi also wrote a media release for Write On! Creative Writing Services this month. Within three days, I was getting notices by email that several comments had been left on the site. I've never had that happen before. This speaks highly of Rosi's press release writing skills. I highly recommend her if you need a press release written.

Taryn Simpson, Write On! staff member, was interviewed by the Tennessean Newspaper about a book she co-authored with a man who lives in Beijing. Their book, *The Mango Tree Café: Loi Kroh Road*, was written by sharing e-mails and instant messaging one another. They have never met or spoken on the phone! Pretty incredible task, but that is one reason I am so proud of the writers on my team. They are all very gifted professionals, and they are like family to me. Way to go, Taryn! [Read her article online...](#)

Trust. Let Go. Leap...Writing in Free/Flow

By Mark David Gerson

When you sit down at the blank page or screen, you have three simple tasks:

Trust

Let go

Leap

Trust. Trust that each word that emerges is the correct and appropriate one. Don't judge. Trust your imagination. Trust past your imagination, which has its own limits, and trust those creative sources that guide and inspire you. Trust the unknown. Trust the depths of a passion you may not even know you feel. Trust the light that kindles your faith. Trust that one word *will* lead to the next, that two words will form a cogent and coherent thought, that each sentence will form part of a whole that is not visible in the writing of it.

It's easy to get so caught up in the word of the moment, the word that doesn't seem right or doesn't seem to make sense, that you cannot see the whole. Of course you cannot, for the whole has not yet come into its wholeness, into completion. Let the words tell their story, your story. Then wait until the story is done to *discern* (not judge) where

the meaning lies. Trust each writing situation as you trust each living situation to be in your highest good. And it will be. In time you will see the wisdom in your life just as you see the underlying wisdom of your words.

Let go. Let go of any expectation whatsoever, including the one that states that what you write today will do or be or serve or aid or heal or pay or move beyond this sentence. No expectations. None—of anything—at all. Period.

Let go all preconceptions of form. Don't put your words into the straitjacket of predetermined and prejudged form. Your words will find their own shape and form. Your words will find their own place on the page, in the order and structure that suits them first and you second. You cannot always know that shape and form in advance.

Follow your fingers as they dance across your keyboard. Follow your words as they create the form that best suits your material, the structure that best suits your message, the message that best suits your readers. No, this may not be the way other writing books tell you to write, particularly non-fiction. Outline, outline, outline, they say. There is a place for the outline. That place is not here, not now. This is a first draft, a place to free all that lies within you without restriction and without constriction.

Sit down at the blank screen or blank page and let emerge what needs to emerge: those thoughts, ideas and miscellaneous strands that seem not to link with anything else. They will and they do. The grand design will emerge...in the emerging of it.

Leap. Leap onto that blank page and let your whole body fill it with its juices. You in your entirety. Your body. Your mind. Your soul. Your spirit. Your divinity. Yes, your divinity. For every word you pen is an expression of that divinity. Your divinity is what links you with God, Buddha or the Christ-mind or whatever higher power you believe in. If you believe in none, than whatever deepest, heartfelt truth is the fuel that fires your passion. For they are one and the same.

Leap onto the page with that first word, that first Godlike piece of creation. Then leap from that word into the next and into the next and into the next. And into the next. Leap off one cliff and then off another and then off another. And know KNOW that you are safe. There is no splat onto the ground. Even if there were, it would not matter. What matters is the word. The one word and then the next.

Keep writing and keep trusting that this word will lead to the next and the next and the next. For as long as you trust that it will, then it will. That's one thing I can guarantee. The words will always flow when you allow them to flow, when you surrender to them, fully.

Mark David Gerson (www.markdavidgerson.com) has taught writing as a creative and spiritual pursuit for 15 years in both the U.S. and Canada. His *Voice of the Muse* classes, workshops and coaching sessions have helped free the flow of words for poets and playwrights, novelists and educators, amateurs and professionals, people who don't believe they can write and people with a compelling call to write. Mark David wrote his award-winning novel, *The MoonQuest*, using his Free/Flow approach, a philosophy he has expanded into *The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write*, his upcoming book of writing inspiration and practice from which this article has been adapted. *The Voice of the Muse* will be released later this year. *The MoonQuest* is a "true fantasy" set in a time when stories are banned and storytellers banished. Both books are published by LightLines Media (www.lightlinesmedia.com).

Writer's in the Sky is Going to the Movies!



The Short Adaptation Film Contest is seeking to inspire, promote and reward innovative talent in the field of film. We are asking filmmakers to adapt a scene or chapter from a book into a visually powerful live action or animated message. The book we are adapting is *Burritos and Gasoline* by Jamie Beckett. The storyline of this work of fiction lends itself to a wide variety of visual interpretations.

Shoot for drama, comedy, suspense, horror, romance or any combination you wish. Our only limitation being that you shoot with an "R" rating or lower as your guideline.

From a practical standpoint, the benefits of this novel to a filmmaker on a limited budget are the following:

- Casting requires only a small number of actors.
- Few of the locations require elaborate recreations.
- No dramatic, expensive or potentially dangerous stunts are required to tell the story.

The Short Adaptation Film Contest commences on September 1, 2007. All submissions must be postmarked no later than midnight, March 21, 2008.

So fire up your imagination and get cracking! Your adaptation just might be the one our judges have been waiting for.

Entry forms, rules, submission forms, guidelines and prize information are available at <http://BookFilmContest.com>.

How a Published Author Can Become a Paid Public Speaker

By Wendy Keller

A book is your golden ticket into the speaking business. If you had a book published by a "real" publisher within the last 12 months in your hands, you have the calling card you need to get those speaking engagements now.

Some authors-to-be and new authors have trouble figuring out precisely how to leverage that book into speaking. First, when the book is printed, ask the publisher for a few hundred copies of the cover, as "overrun." Usually you can have them free or at cost. They make large-sized, noticeable postcards to send to meeting planners to attract their attention.

Next, you want to get media. Radio, print, television appearances based on your book are all critical. Capture the name of the show, the host and the date you appeared and put it on your website, in your speaker's package, and in your file. Eventually, you will collect all of your TV clips and ask a professional video editor to combine it into an excellent montage. These will impress the heck out of a meeting planner and should be used liberally.

Now that you've got some ammo, and assuming you have a website touting your brilliance and your book, it's time to petition all those hapless meeting planners out there. Write letters, make phone calls, send post cards, follow up and be persistent.

You can buy a book of meeting planners in any industry online. Then, you make them your new friends. Go to their meetings. Hang out. Cold call them and be friendly.

I personally love cold calling. I also don't even notice rejection. I suggest you adopt my personality for a little while each day. In the speaker trainings I do, I make them all recite a mantra that will help their business. "The most important thing that I can do is make 12 calls between 10 and 2." That refers to the minimum I expect from a speaker-to-be. Make 12 calls each day to meeting planners, offer them you, a free copy of your book, send them a postcard thanking them for their time on the phone written on your book jacket cover, and make at least three follow up calls (or fewer if they tell you to quit calling.)

Make those 12 calls five days a week. Give them what they ask you for. If you do this, you will make 3,120 calls in a year. You will have gotten speaking engagements simply by the law of averages. Your investment of time will be small, but results can be huge.

Good luck!

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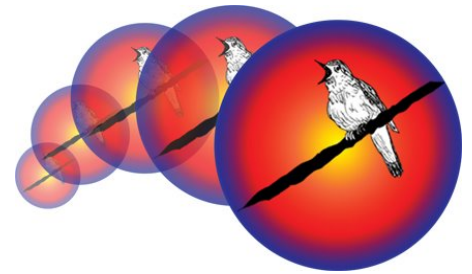
Wendy Keller is a professional speaker, published author and book agent. Her company Fame Finders delivers a proven marketing, training and promotion system to help successful people become famous authors and professional speakers. Her system provides a clear competitive advantage for successful individuals who are now ready to lead the field. <http://www.famefinders.com>

Newsworthy Nuggets from Nightengale Press

Query, self-publish or hire a publisher? That IS the question by Valerie Connelly

It Takes a Community to Learn the Business of Authoring a Book
By Valerie Connelly

As writers and authors, maybe you prefer the solitude of the craft. Maybe you don't think of writing a book as an act that requires knowledge of the book business. As an author myself, I know you've read tons of books, subscribed to newsletters, been inundated with emails of every imaginable type from people marketing their ideas. But how often have you been invited to join a community of writers, authors, industry experts from all aspects of the book world? This is different. Yes, it is *really* different.



I am so pleased to announce the launch of www.callingallauthors.org I could hardly wait to tell you all about this new community website. One little detail, if you normally use AOL, please don't. Go directly to *Internet Explorer* or *Firefox* browsers to access our site.

Calling All Authors, my weekly radio show on www.globaltalkradio.com grew from a show where authors talked about their books, to a place where authors from all over the world and of every imaginable genre, publishers, reviewers, marketing experts, designers, association presidents, magazine editors, advertising experts, newsletter/ezine gurus, printers and more came to talk about their areas of expertise, their books and their experiences in the world of books.

I gathered tons of information from the 2006 show season, combined it with my own insights and experience, and wrote *Calling All Authors --- How to Publish with Your Eyes Wide Open*. (ISBN 1-933449-43-3 \$19.95 August 2007, available on www.nightengalepress.com and all other online bookstores) This book has spawned the community website www.callingallauthors.org, and I am launching both the book and the site on September 1, 2007.

This is your invitation to come **Visit** the site, **Register** and **Join before** it opens to the internet public.

Why would you want to do that? If you are there when everyone else arrives, your status as a *Member* will bring others toward you, your book, your expertise, and your website, too.

How can that be? Well, because this is a place where *YOU* can shine, develop connections, highlight your events and books, share information, tips and tricks about writing, publishing and marketing of books, learn, teach, and exercise your networking skills.

Authors and industry experts helped create it by appearing on **Calling All Authors** the radio show. Authors and industry experts helped create it by contributing to the book *Calling All Authors*.

You stand to benefit from these opportunities:

- to blog right on the site,

- contribute articles right on the site,
- release your news right on the site,
- save on the informational products offered only on the site,
- and grow from the experience as never before.
- You can link to us and we will link to you,
- you can agree to link to other members of complimentary mind or genre or expertise, and that will drive traffic in all directions.
- Your willingness to share will bring more to you than you can even imagine.

How do you Join? You will first need to **Register** to see more of what's available, and you need to be a **Member** to be able to gain all the bells and whistles.

Every month there will be an entertaining informational teleseminar to attend, a downloadable informational video to learn from. Every other month there will be an entertaining Webinar with more reality-based information. Once every three months a new library of audio-clips will be released, there will be downloadable PDFs to inspire, inform and motivate you. And as the site grows, the offerings will grow too.

So, now is the time. I invite you to come to www.callingallauthors.org . **REGISTER** first and then **JOIN!** This is where you can become a leader, a teacher, and a learner all in the same place and at the same time.

Here are the **TELESEMINAR TOPICS** that are already booked:

- **Sept. 19th 2007:** Yvonne Perry and her team talk about Editing and Proofreading, Ghostwriting and Freelance writing.
- **Oct. 17th 2007:** Bestselling Mystery Author, Patricia M. Terrell takes the mystery out of marketing fiction.
- **Nov. 14th 2007:** Internet marketing expert, Kathleen Gage will share her Street Smarts Marketing expertise.
- **Dec. 12th 2007:** Teacher, author, book promoter, Carolyn Howard-Johnson will share "Editing as Branding: Spell your success from queries to your book's manuscript," and much more!
- **Jan. 16th 2008:** Book Publicist Maryglenn McCombs opens the door to getting your money's worth when paying for publicity.
- **Feb. 20th 2008:** Marketing and Newsletter guru, Francine Silverman talks about Newsletters and Books that sell.
- **March 19th 2008:** Carolyn Howard-Johnson brings more tips and tricks about frugal book promotion.

WEBINAR TOPICS:

- **Oct. 24 2007:** Insights about writing, publishing and co-op marketing. Nightengale Press Publisher, Valerie Connelly offers tips and tricks about writing your book, targeting your market, and publishing with your eyes wide open. Based on segments of her book *Calling All Authors --- How to Publish with Your Eyes Wide Open*.

Printable Agenda and follow-along materials prior to the event. Downloadable PDF of the web screen shots, and MP3 recording of the Webinar available to all registered attendees after the event.

- **Dec. 5th 2007:** Frugal Book Promotion with Carolyn Howard-Johnson. Host and Nightengale Press Publisher, Valerie Connelly and guest Carolyn Howard-Johnson, the Frugal Book Promoter, provide insights, experiences, and advice about the many ways authors can more easily promote their work everyday. Printable Agenda and follow-along materials prior to the event. Downloadable PDF of the web screen shots, and MP3 recording of the Webinar available to all registered attendees after the event.
- **Feb. 5th 2008:** Mainstream reviews, online reviews, professional reviewers, and readers as reviewers paid and un-paid. Guest Irene Watson, Managing Editor of Readerviews.com. Printable Agenda and follow-along materials prior to the event. Downloadable PDF of the web screen shots, and MP3 recording of the Webinar available to all registered attendees after the event.

- **April 2008:** Talk Radio and TV Interviews: How to get them, what to expect and why some are so hard to get. P.M. Terrell co-hosts with Valerie Connelly, as they share their insights. Printable Agenda and follow-along materials prior to the event. Downloadable PDF of the web screen shots, and MP3 recording of the Webinar available to all registered attendees after the event.

Are you Available? Here are open Webinar slots. You can be a guest host. These topics can be changed. Just let me know what you propose by email at info@callingallauthors.org.

Jun. 2008: Publicity and publicists. How to get the most for your money, and know when to run the other way.

Aug. 2008: Writing as a profession, as a hobby, as a personal goal.

Oct. 2008: Internet marketing and what it can and cannot do for you.

Dec. 2008: When a good idea isn't enough. How to research your book to make it a definitive work.

So, welcome in advance to www.callingallauthors.org. Do drop into the website this week. Register. Join. You'll be glad you did.

Contact: Valerie Connelly, Author/Publisher/Speaker/Educator/Talk Show Host, at info@callingallauthors.org

Do you Need Articles for your Blog or Web site?

Here's the perfect solution and it's offered to you at no cost from Yvonne Perry, the owner of [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#) and a group of writers who participated in a 40-article challenge.

Unite to Write is a collection of reprintable articles on a variety of topics such as:

- Herbs and Plants
- Grief and Widowhood
- Writing for Children
- Coping with Insomnia
- Freelance Writing Business Know-How
- Do it yourself Home Repair
- Dealing with Coworkers
- Medical Articles
- Marketing and Networking



What's the catch?

There is no catch. In fact, we want you to use the articles for content in your newsletter, or on your blog or Web site. You can even give separate articles or the entire eBook to others. All we ask is that you keep the resource box at the end of each article intact when you use or share them.

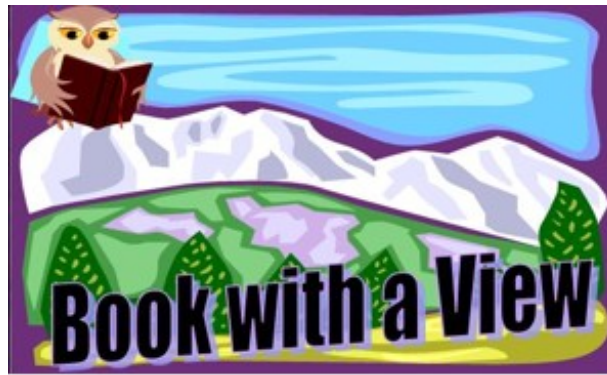
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If you need more content than this eBook contains, click the hyperlink inside the resource box and find more material from each writer.

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A PLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUR BOOK

BOOK REVIEWS FOR August 2007

Partially Human

Dwayne G. Anderson

Infinity Publishing

Price: \$13.95 U.S

ISBN: 0-7414-3990-5

183 pages

From the creative writing talent of Dwayne G. Anderson, Infinity Publishing has brought forth *Partially Human*, a general fiction novel for teens and young adults.

Partially Human is the ultimate story about the power of true friendship, compassion, loyalty, love, and finding your place in society if you are "different". Many of the characters each face an issue of everyday society, something that many people experience throughout their lives.

Partially Human is the story of Joshua Plofhard, a teenage good samaritan from Los Angeles, one of the city's most beloved citizens, his relationship with the people around him, and how his life is turned upside-down when it is revealed that he carries the genes of a dying alien species in his body. As he struggles to pick up the pieces of his shattered life with help from his mother, friends, girlfriend, and a few others who come to sympathize with his plight, he learns many important lessons all while attempting to stay ahead of an assassin who has marked him for death.

The author, Dwayne G. Anderson, was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome at age sixteen. His experiences with "being different" gave him the inspiration to write *Partially Human*. Available at Amazon and Infinity Publishing's online bookstore.

<http://www.amazon.com/Partially-Human-Dwayne-G-Anderson/dp/0741439905>

<http://www.bbotw.com/description.asp?ISBN=0-7414-3990-5>

Also, visit his official website at <http://www.geocities.com/andersondwayne/dwaynegand.html>

Only Moments

Nick Oliva

Publish America

ISBN: 1-4241-7077-X

Publication June 4, 2007

www.onlymomentsbook.com

*We are always in two worlds at once,
and neither of them is the world of reality.
One is the world we think we are in,
the other is the world we would like to be in.*

—Henry V. Miller

The journey begins in the year 2020, with a romantic surreal dream and the waking of sixty-six-year-old widower, Chris Vadia, a retired professional musician, and his sullen perspective due to his wife's death years earlier. *Only Moments* is a tale of human devotion and is representative of the sense of discovery that we all share as we travel life's path.

As the story unfolds, we find out how lead character Chris met the love of his life, while on a wild summer vacation driving through California. A beach in Big Sur is the dramatic background for the beginning of their impassioned romance. Time then shifts through college days, marriage, their struggles and successes, parental deaths, their Carnegie Hall debut, the fateful day of 9/11, and then the realization that Chris and his wife have grown far apart despite being with each other 24 hours a day throughout their lives.

Nick Oliva's first novel, *Only Moments*, focuses on a world filled with false hopes and questioning of societal and spiritual values. It is a story of pure romance and delves into both the dangers and the euphoria of total devotion between a man and wife. One realizes it is the flaws and illusions of both characters that binds and drives them to success.

The novel's tale, opens in Flagler Beach, Florida, moves on to Monterey County based on the author's own experiences at age 16 in 1970, and then to New York City.

Nick Oliva (O-lee-va') has been a musician, composer, photographer, an audio engineer, an entertainment director and technical director for over twenty-five years and is a successful self-made money manager. He lives in the mountains outside of Las Vegas. This is his first novel.

Book Review by Michael Hice, Santa Fe, NM

The MoonQuest: A True Fantasy

Author: Mark David Gerson

ISBN: 9780979547584

272 pages

LightLines Media

Availability: selected U.S. bookstores, Amazon.com

Times in the land loom dark and dangerous. An evil king, having outlawed all storytelling, terrorizes lovers of Truth and Beauty. Bards (singers and storytellers), previously revered, have been exiled as this once-magical land wastes away in the doldrums of their absence.

This mythical country of Q'tana, which sprang from the creative genius of Mark David Gerson through the 90s and early 2000s, has now come together as a "true fantasy" entitled *The MoonQuest*.

In a classic hero's tale, *The MoonQuest* is the story of Toshar — "youngest of the old and oldest of the young" — who is called to venture out of exile and onto a quest to restore dream and storytelling, and the light of a darkened moon, to Q'tana.

As I began to read *The MoonQuest*, I, naturally, even smugly, associated myself with the main character, knowing he was the hero.

Then something extraordinary happened. Unlike most heroes I have encountered in literature — mythical heroes who confront all types of challenges without a second thought — Toshar began to demonstrate human frailties that I would have preferred to avoid claiming.

Toshar didn't want to go on the journey, to accept the undefined responsibility. "Do I have to decide now?" he tries to beg off. "I wouldn't know what to do, where to go."

Suddenly Toshar mirrored me more precisely than I had anticipated. Due to his vulnerability, I began to identify with him in unexpectedly personal ways and to assimilate my own journey with his quest. Nearly every challenge Toshar confronted paralleled one of my own personal questions.

As new characters entered Toshar's story and aided him in furthering his quest, I began to recognize particular friends that serve me, as well as other friends, relatives, acquaintances, even adversaries in my life, that may only pass through yet contribute to my

evolution.

I then realized — with profound new insight — that every living being is weaving together a story. Beyond the moments, or years, that others may travel my road, their stories contain unrelated chapters that I know nothing about.

A fresh awareness illuminated the meaning of "oneness" — the interconnected tapestry of all life.

As demonstrated in *The MoonQuest*, our challenge is to allow or create a safe space where the complete story can be told. Most people claim that their own story is not interesting, too mundane. But dig deeper and those same people usually admit to concealing the most consequential chapters in their biography because those chapters don't fit into "the norm" or are too painful to retell for fear of reprisal, criticism or judgment.

Imagine a world where everyone's most deeply concealed stories were allowed an airing. Freed by truth, the world would enjoy no room for judgment of others, no space for arrogance, bigotry, hatred, resentment, bitterness, or any of the other less-than-positive aspects of human nature that prevent others, and ultimately ourselves, from progressing toward a more fruitful unfolding.

Toshar's friend Fynda's revelation near the end of *The MoonQuest* — one of the more difficult but most significant points in the novel — graphically demonstrates the need for permitting the hidden parts of our lives to be uncovered. As a result of Fynda's courage, her friends are given the space to free themselves from the burdens and bondage of their own secrets.

The author has stated that he didn't want to include Fynda's story in the book but kept feeling compelled to do so. In my estimation, Fynda's unveiling of her deepest pain is pivotal to the point of *The MoonQuest*: that the complete story must be told.

In "real" life as in Q'ntana, being allowed to tell all stories is the only means by which we can free ourselves and move forward.

If I began reading *The MoonQuest* for entertainment (and it is entertaining), the experience quickly turned into an unintended vehicle for personal growth: first, to recognize that I too am compelled to tell my own story and every decision determines the paths I travel; second, to help identify and be grateful for the other characters that play critical roles in my own enlightenment; and finally, to understand the powerful, positive impact of revealing our deepest, most closely held secrets and how such exposure frees not only us but all those around us.

In summary, I recommend *The MoonQuest* on two levels. One, it is simply a fantastical and gripping ride to another world. Second and perhaps more important, it is a phenomenal journey of self-discovery and personal growth — the kind of book the world should clamor for and read more of.

The Praetorian File, a Paige Harrington Mystery

Allan McLeod

Duchess Publishing (2007)

ISBN 9780615150666

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (7/07)

I thought about titling my review, "Red-Heads Named Paige Rule," but since I am a red-head named Paige, like the main character, I was afraid that I might appear to be biased! *The Praetorian File* is the second book in the Paige Harrington Mystery series. It was the first one for me to read. You can definitely read it by itself and understand the characters and what is going on. McLeod managed to hook me on this one, so I plan to go back and read the first one.

The main character, Paige Harrington, is an international free-lance journalist. When the scientist that she is assigned to interview is murdered the day before she gets to meet her, Paige starts investigating. The more she discovers, the more she gets hooked on trying to solve the mystery. As she is trying to find out what happened, more people are murdered and she discovers the dangerous secret Praetorian society that involves worldwide corruption. Paige is unsure of who she can trust and has to put herself in further danger by reaching out to people who might be players in this society.

When a close friend of Paige's is kidnapped and tortured, she becomes further determined to bring this society down. Her life and the lives of her friends and families are in jeopardy. As long as her friend is in the hands of the enemy, she will not give up. As she goes deeper in, she learns about the evilness of some very high-standing members of society. Along with trying to solve this mystery, there is a romance brewing between Paige and a man on the police force.

The Praetorian File is an excellent fast-paced story. Once again, as in his book, *Death Spirits*, Allan McLeod does an excellent job of coming up with an intriguing detailed plot and compelling characters. He incorporates some touches of romance and humor in the story that keep it from becoming too dark. The relationships are also well-developed in the book. I enjoyed the camaraderie that Paige shares with other people, some of whom aren't so trustworthy.

I highly recommend *The Praetorian File*. If you have not read any of Mr. McLeod's books yet, you are in for a real treat. It would also make an excellent gift for mystery/suspense fans. I look forward to the books that will follow in the Paige Harrington series.

The Vampire Within: New Blood

Drew Silver

BookSurge Publishing (2007)

ISBN 9781419667794

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (7/07)

The Vampire Within: New Blood is the second book in the *The Vampire Within* trilogy. It begins immediately where *The Vampire Within: The Beginning* left off. As in the first one, the action is constant and keeps you sitting on the edge of your seat. I hated having to put this book down. The little things in life like eating and going to work were an annoyance because I didn't want to have to stop reading this story!

The trilogy continues in Triton City, California, where students have been injected with a serum that is to help them mentally and physically. In this story, we learn that the serum has been derived from the DNA of the remains of a vampire found buried in Romania. The adversary of the doctor who began administering this serum is now injecting his own group of students. The recipients of an earlier strain of this serum have turned into blood-hungry creatures. Supposedly, the formula has been improved. The heroes in this story who have been injected with the new version still find themselves fighting the desire to feed. They also continue to have an aversion to sunlight and wooden stakes in their hearts. Their physical strength and speed, and their ability to heal are their gifts.

The students injected with the new strain are at battle with the recipients of the old strain. The old recipients are now scary, rotting creatures with no humanity left in them. The heroes are saddened to discover that they can recognize who some of these creatures used to be. They also learn a lot more about the people behind this travesty and about the betrayal involved.

I totally enjoyed this novel, *The Vampire Within: New Blood*. Unlike most movies, the sequel is just as good if not better than the first book. You can read it on its own, but I know that if you do, you will be drawn to read the first one. So buy both books, enjoy reading them and then join me while I wait for the third in the trilogy.

Title: ***One Flew Under the Cuckoo's Nest***

Author: Ami Amara

Date: 2007 (from Amazon.com)

ISBN: 978-1847538277

Book Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OAHtM9W-8>

Website: www.authorsden/oneflewunder

Amara's Frighteningly Realistic Portrayal Leaves One Wondering If the World Has Gone Truly Mad by [Shannon Evans](#)

One Flew under the Cuckoo's Nest is a dark commentary on the dismal state of mental health care in modern society. The book follows Bernie as she battles through a schizophrenic fugue trying to make sense of her own mental state. She struggles through her treatment trying to make sense of her life, her passions, and her circumstances. Over medicated, under-treated, she is caged like a beautiful bird beating her wings against the constraints of the facility in which she has been placed.

Bernie's fight to free herself from her illness takes her on a journey through a system filled with caregivers, misguided family members, and health care professionals who are each sympathetic to her problems. What is missing is any empathy for her loss of rational thinking.

The ward is filled with those who are ill and require the help of those who are trained to help them. The working conditions and the feeling of hopelessness of those who are in a position to treat the mentally ill become themselves ill in the process. Do they treat the ill because they themselves are ill or is the madness like a virus and catching and they become mad themselves? The fruitless work, the ineffective therapies, and the failure of the public health care system to effectively care for the mentally ill are all dynamically presented in *One Flew under the Cuckoo's Nest*.

The cacophony of the sterile hospital environment leads the reader to ponder what is causing more damage to the patients. The never ending cycle of medication, psychotherapy, and shock therapy leave the reader to feel the despair and desolation of the patients. Do the treatment and the environment of the ward cocoon the patients or lead them further down into the depths of their individual madness?

Amara's frighteningly realistic depiction of the book's characters leaves one wondering if the world has truly gone mad. Her work thoughtfully addresses the very real stigma associated with mental illness in modern society. The mentally ill sit locked away behind a door, unseen and in deafening silence waiting for release from their illness. Their release is often into the only community left open to them in their fragile mental state: the society of the disenfranchised, the society of the perpetually homeless and hopeless.

This book raises multiple issues about the care of our mentally ill members of society as well as the troubling trend in the collapse of the mental health care infrastructure. Seeing the plight of the ill through their own eyes leaves the reader with the conviction that more must be done. It also leaves one with a feeling of despair that we really do not have a clear notion of what that "more" is that must be done.

Writers in the Sky Podcast



[Writers in the Sky Podcast](#) offers interviews with authors and writers, as well as the latest news about books on the market, publishing methods and marketing techniques. There are more than 35 informational shows already uploaded and a new program is added each week.

Occasionally, a teleclass may be longer, but most of our classes are recorded in 15- to 20-minute segments you may listen to while traveling, cleaning the house, waxing the car, exercising, etc.

Many of the guests on the show also contribute informative articles and announcements to this monthly newsletter offered by [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#). The best part is there is no cost to listen and it is a great way to learn more about writing and publishing.

To [Sign up for the RSS Feed](#) go to <http://www.yvonneperry.blogspot.com/> and put your email address in the "subscribe me" box on the right sidebar.

You will get some great information about writing and publishing and you'll never have to worry about missing a podcast show you wanted to hear.

Francine Silverman will be Yvonne Perry's guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast, September 7th, 2007!



Francine Silverman is a lifelong New Yorker who honed her writing skills as a newspaper reporter and freelance writer. She authored two travel guidebooks, *Catskills Alive* (2000 and 2003) and *Long Island Alive* (2003), both published by Hunter Publishing.

In 2003, Fran started Book Promotion Newsletter for authors of all genres. <http://www.bookpromotionnewsletter.com>. The ezine spawned Book Marketing from A-Z (Infinity Publishing 2005), containing the best marketing strategies of 325 subscribers. The 400-page paperback is in alphabetical order for ease of use. The book received nearly 40 rave reviews from on-line reviewers.

In 2006, Fran started a publicity service and has gotten subscribers placed in the Boston Herald, Oklahoman and Chicago Tribune as well as on Internet and terrestrial radio programs. Until recently, Fran began her own Internet radio show, Book Marketing with

Fran, on Achieve Radio, <http://www.achieveradio.com>.

The latter two ventures inspired Fran to compile another book, called Talk Radio for Authors - available on Amazon. The book contains valuable information on talk radio shows across the U.S. and Canada that invite authors as guests. It saves authors the time and trouble in locating appropriate programs to contact. Fran is now compiling yet another book - this time with the help of an agent - Radio Wants You! An Intimate Portrait of 500 Radio Shows that Welcome Guests - designed for a general audience. Her website is [http://www.](http://www.bookpromotionnewsletter.com)

[bookpromotionnewsletter.com](http://www.bookpromotionnewsletter.com)



Joanne Lozar Glenn will be Rosi's guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast September 17, 2007!



Joanne Lozar Glenn, an independent writer, editor, and educator, develops educational programs and materials for associations and other businesses.

The author of [Mentor Me: A Guide to Being Your Own Best Advocate](#) in the Workplace and coauthor of 25+1: Communications Strategies for Business Education, Joanne has also written more than 100 articles, brochures, and teaching guides. Her writing has won awards, most recently an Apex Award of Excellence (2007) for newsletter writing (NBEA Keying In, November 2006: Teaching Reading in the Content Areas) and an Apex Grand Award—Writing (2006) for the article, “No Plain, No Gain: The Importance of Plain Writing in

Business.” In 2005, she won a Bronze award for the column “Mentoring from the Inside Out” from the Society for National Association Publications (2005) and speaks on this topic to professional organizations.

A former junior high teacher, Joanne has also worked as a manager of education programs, editor of a trade association magazine, and editorial consultant for textbooks. While employed by an international healthcare association, she was both inspired by the talent of one of her employees and discouraged by the lack of promotional opportunities available to this employee. So she developed an “under the radar” covert mentoring program to help the employee gain basic managerial experience. The insights developed during that time became the foundation for a course called “Be Your Own Mentor,” on which her book, Mentor Me, is based.

Joanne regularly designs and delivers workshops on Mentor Me principles, and on business writing and adult learning, to community colleges, university-based continuing education programs, and other professional organizations. She is an active member of Women in Technology and the International Women’s Writing Guild.

Reverend Dan Bloodworth will be Yvonne Perry's guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast September 21, 2007!

Yvonne met Reverend Dan Bloodworth in 2005 and immediately became intrigued by his enthusiasm regarding stem cell research.

Reverend Dan and Carol Bloodworth’s All-American athlete son, Brian, suffered a spinal cord injury when he was hit by lightning in 1987. Now an adult, Brian, is in a stage 4 coma and is fed through a tube.

Reverend Bloodworth has been advocating for blastocystic (embryonic) stem cell research for more than 16 years in hopes of finding help for his son. As a result of his extensive knowledge on the topic, Dan has been appointed to the Advisory Council to Congress regarding stem cell research. Dan believes he can make the world a better place by helping others understand the facts about blastocyst stem cell research.

Bloodworth attended Rhema Bible College in order to better understand how the right wing beliefs against blastocystic stem cell research are supported. His education led him to believe that stem cell research and any subsequent therapy is a gift from God, and showed him that the logic of those who use the Bible to support their beliefs is unfounded.

“Neither the scripture nor biological data can be used to support that a life is being taken when blastocyst stem cells are used for research,” says Dan.

When Dan travels the country and speaks about stem cell research, preachers and parishioners are astounded because they simply did not know that fertilized eggs are not human beings. “They have a mental picture of a little miniature baby swimming around in its mother’s womb,” reports Dan. “They have never been given factual or scientific information about blastocyst stem cells, and they haven’t done any research on their own. Instead, they are willing to naively believe other people who have told them that in

vitro stem cell research kills babies.”

After Dan shared his findings and Biblically supportive information with Republican Leader Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee, Senator Frist became a major supporter of federal funding for blastocystic stem cell research. He even spoke against President Bush’s veto of H.R. 810 in July 2006, which would have allowed research on stem cell lines previously frozen for use in fertility treatments. I’m sure you would like to know what Reverend Bloodworth shared that was so convincing. That’s exactly what he will present in our interview on September 21st.

Yvonne Perry learned a lot from Dan and included his information in her book RIGHT TO RECOVER Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America. This book is now available on all online bookstores and will be available in local bookstores October first. For more information about Right to Recover, see www.right2recover.com.

Pam Thibodeaux will be Yvonne Perry’s guest on Writers in the Sky September 28



Pamela S. Thibodeaux is a housewife, the mother of four children (two by blood and two by marriage) and grandmother of two. She currently resides in her hometown of Iowa, Louisiana with her husband Terry. Though Pam now works in Lake Charles as a Licensed Sales Producer in the Insurance industry her past work history is as colorful as her writing resume.

A former member of American Christian Fiction Writers (formerly ACRW), Golden Triangle Writers Guild, Coeur de Louisiane and RWA, Pam won Coeur's 1999 "Diamond In The Rough" as well as their 2000 "Ruby" Award and received her RWA Pro Pin in 2001. She is currently the Co-founder and acting President/Treasurer of the Bayou Writers Group in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Multi-published in fiction and non-fiction, her writing has been tagged as "Inspirational with an Edge!" and reviewed as "Steamier and grittier than the typical Christian without decreasing the message."

Pam will be sharing a synopsis from each of her books and how she published them. She will also offer tips for book marketing.

Natalie Goldberg Writing Workshop

by Barbara Sharp Milbourn

This July I attended a week-long Natalie Goldberg writing workshop in Taos, New Mexico. Her workshops sell out quickly and I had waited and saved for a year and a month to attend. It was money and time well-spent.

There were fifty-seven of us, mostly women except for three men. We came from around the world—Rome; Russia; Bozeman, Montana. We ran the gamut of writing talent, from published authors and university-level writing teachers to babes in the woods.

Natalie Goldberg teaches many things—far too many for a single article—but one of the most important for me was doing a daily, timed, writing practice. In Taos, the entire group gathered for a lesson and then broke out into small writing groups. Within all small groups, we had writing prompts and were to write for ten minutes from the prompt. We kept hands moving which is another thing Natalie teaches. Keep the hand moving. Write whatever comes to mind. Don’t worry about spelling or punctuation. Give yourself permission to write the worst junk in America. Then, when time’s up, read aloud to your group members. Reading aloud, another thing Natalie teaches, allows you to come back to ground zero and hear what you wrote, not what your worrying mind was afraid it wrote. It’s terrifying at first. What writer hasn’t been terrified or at least fearful of criticism of their personal expression? But this is yet another thing Natalie teaches. No comment! No oohs, aaahs, or awws. Just “thank you”. It gives the writer broader berth and greater acceptance without verbalized comments.

The small writing group I was part of was comprised of a young woman from San Francisco (Megan), another from San Jose (Pam), and a woman my age from Aspen, Colorado (Allyson). In those writing sessions, as you might imagine, we wrote of which we knew. We got personal and deep, we laughed, we wept, we cheated and said “aww”, and we developed the most unexpected, precious bond.

Our small group has continued now for over a month since the workshop ended. We cross three time zones and have set aside a designated time each Saturday for a conference call during which we read aloud to each other our two or three writing prompts

from the week before. This week, our prompts are: (1) the first time I saw Natalie (2) fall, the season, and (3) flowers.

Here's what I wrote this morning:

"Fall, the season. I suppose I should be thankful that no one came along on the greenway this morning as I scooped the dried leaves with my dustpan into a waiting trash bag. I would have had to explain that I needed a 70-30 mix of dry-to-wet material for my compost bin. Dry material is what I want you to hear. Dry leaves, fallen from the aching trees, leached of their color without the benefit of fall, the season.

It's only summer but a record-breaking one in terms of consecutive high temperature days and no water. I repeat, no water. I watched this dry condition on my daily walks at the pond. The islands became peninsulas, the water shrank, and the growing banks became stinking mud places for algae. A year ago, I watched this pond begin to wither and I thought of lack, less, not enough. Not enough rain in this case. I tried not to worry about not enough rain and a too-small pond. I tried not to worry as some do about not enough food or money. But the knowledge of lack remains, even after observing the worry, and knowing that worry is useless, unproductive and a damn good insult to having faith. Still the dryness persists. The beautiful hardwood forests so lush and green in a normal year struggle, suffer, and plead for rain that does not come.

That feels like fall, the season, to me. I can feel it coming already – no, not feel it, the air is still too hot and humid. But like worry, to sense it, to know it is coming, and to dread it. Fall, it's the trade-off season here in the south. We trade dark mornings and early nightfall for clear dry air, bright blue skies, and gusty winds that march colorful leaves down the streets like platoons of soldiers. Finally, at the end of a God-forsaken summer, comes a few decent days. But the hours of light become less and less while long-ago memories and thoughts of things dying to another cycle become greater and greater. Some call it poignant, some say it is bittersweet – this fall, the season."

So, there it was, ten minutes of daily writing practice. My voice—maybe the worst junk in America, maybe not. No comment, except keep writing.

[Barbara Sharp Milbourn](#) is the staff editor for *Write On! Creative Writing Services* based in Nashville, Tennessee. She also serves as the host for many of the shows on [Writers in the Sky Podcast](#) and is available to assist you with your editing project.



A Splash Of Energy

A Splash Of Energy
Creates A World Of Effervescence
Raging Spirals Of Atom And Particles Swiftly Aligning Into Matter
Form And Substance Become Symbols For Existence
Bodies Effuse From Thought In Efficient Masterpieces
Winds Of Efficacious Knowledge Whisper
In Elaborate Elasticity
Elders Become Children In the Electricity Of Electrons

Elegant Elements Of Consciousness Elope In Grandeur
Embarking With The Essence Of Expansion
I Move Towards The Center Of My Embryo
Emblazed In Unity I Become One Within Creation
Embosomed In Love
I Breath

Hal Manogue

From the 2008 Collection Of Short Sleeves A Book For Friends

www.shortsleeves.net

<http://halmanogue.blogspot.com/>

The Ice Of Silence!

Weather is a topic that breaks the ice of silence. Everybody knows something about it. It is a personal, yet universal experience. I share that experience with all living things, and am able to express my thoughts about it, with everyone I meet, even the ones I call strangers.

It is amazing to believe that I take an active part in creating the weather, but I do. My thoughts along with all the other thoughts at any given time, will effect what weather patterns develop. In fact the disasters and earth changes are directly related to our universal consciousness. We are responsible for what we experience in physical form and that includes the weather.

I bring the weather topic up today, to break a silence. I want to share three poems from my 2008 Collection and I thought, what better way to do that than talk about the weather first. Everyday conversations in many situations start with the weather and then lead to other mutual interests, so I am using a tool we all use, to start a bond of understanding.

The 2008 Collection is the third in a series of ten. Each year I write about what I have experienced in physical form. These thoughts are not the typical concepts that are shared in everyday interactions with others. They are rooted in the same universal consciousness that creates the weather. To some they are fruitless; to others they are doorways that lead to another reality. To me, they are part of my journey and I share them in the spirit of love and joy.

"Before Me," "Elasticity," and "Freedom Knows," were written in the early months of 2007. Just like the weather, everyone will experience them in their own way.

Before Me

Integrated Forms Within Me
Move Mountains Of Questions To Valleys Of Answers
These Valleys Are Within The Mountains
Complete Forms Yet Incomplete In Themselves
The Answers Are The Questions Joined In A Bond Of Unity
Capped By The Snow Of Truth
Ancient Laws Of Attraction Bring Me
To That Stream Of Connection That Runs Through My Consciousness
Each Question Is Answered By A Different Self
A Different Form That Is Aware Of It's
Source By Knowing Itself
Running Through The Mountains Of My Mind
I Find The Valleys Of My Life
Before Me

Elasticity

Wedged Between Time And Space My Consciousness Reveals Itself
Frozen Branches Of My Life Reincarnated Themselves
In a Liquid Form Of Energy
The Knowledge Of Infinity Dances In Between The Teardrops Of Lucidity
My Eyes Too Wet To Notice The Power Of My Creation

Notions Of Mortality Restrict My Freedom And Condemn Me To A Existence Of Inequities
I'm Trapped In An Illusion Of The Grand Illusion Of Insecurity
Until I Thaw Myself In The Ray Of Unity
Melting Each Branch Of Me And Flowing Into The Lake Of Possibilities
Where Many Realities Have A Piece Of Me
I Become A Free Fall Of Probabilities Swimming In Tranquility
Connected Energy Leads Me To The Dam Of Eternity
Where I Choose To Reinvent Myself In Eccentricity
Floating On A Wave Of Elasticity

Freedom Knows

Instant Gratification Abounds In Thoughts Of Giving
Loneliness Is Non Existent In Truth
Belief Has Faith That Gives Birth To Matter
Strength Rests Firmly Within Itself
Words Sit Quietly In Feats Of Splendor
Perfection Is An Act In Progress
Abundance Has A Group Mentality
Nature Expands Within Its Roots
Blossoms Scent Themselves In Beauty
Wisdom Finds A Seat In Eternity
Love Is All That Freedom Knows

Hal Manogue

www.shortsleeves.net

<http://halmanogue.blogspot.com/>

A Song for You

Maybe Elton John could have
Done a better job,
Or John Denver in his subtle and bemused
Befuddled way.

They knew the nuance needed,
All the buttons to be pushed
To make all the ladies tingle
As they gently swoon and sway.

But

<Chorus>

This song's for you.
No one else can steal the show,
And I know it's true
That our love can only grow.
Right from the start
It's as if I always knew
That my heart will always sing
A song for you.

True love is forever
Or at least that's what they say.
When you find that special someone to adore.
You find it growing stronger
Every minute, every day,
Strolling hand in hand

Through every open door.
And

<Repeat Chorus>

Leave It Alone

There are times when a well-spoken word
Can bring peace to a troubled world,
But lately the words between us
Only get in the way.
The more that we talk, the more we sound bitter
Til the words finally cut to the bone.
I believe that it might have been better
To just leave it alone.

The world will keep turning, and
Hearts will keep yearning
In whispers that speak soft and low.
But your words undo me,
The anger cuts through me,
And I simply can't let it go.

A handful of laughter can't hide
All the heartache we hold inside.
There's just not much left to say
When the feeling is gone.
If we can't learn trust in each other
There's no need to talk at all.
We might as well talk to ourselves
And just leave it alone.

It's a Pleasure

We meet...
And it's a pleasure
From a handshake to a hug,
From an eye-induced embarkment
To a laden bon voyage.

In a smile-embraced encounter
A melody in tune,
Some soon to be nostalgia in
A memory collage.

Defeat is not a measure
To consider in our world.
It's a place reserved for others
Who've forgotten how to win.

As we stand at the finish line
And savor victory,
We look toward another contest
And remember where we've been.

And when the day is over
And the music fades away,
When angels call to glory
And our story starts anew,

I'll write you one more love song
As the light begins to dim
To tell you one last time
It was a pleasure loving you.

Dennis S Martin

<http://www.iwritesome.com>

<http://iwritesome.blogspot.com/>

The 300-year old Haiku Poem has its own distinct discipline. Each complete poem has only three lines, totaling 17 syllables.

- the first line must be five syllables
- the second line must be seven syllables
- the third line must be five syllables

Here are a dozen HAIKU POEMS written and submitted by Dr. M. V. ATRE, Mumbai (India)

1. Sky cries constantly
rain falls profusely and
earth is tranquillised.
2. Trees welcome quietly
all kinds of fowls -- birds to
perch on sprawling twigs.
3. I walk down long ways
long walks invigorate
vigour works wonders.
4. M. D., specialist,
treats patients with malicious
and malafied ends.
5. Money is sweet - heart
fancying to desert for
pastures greener.
6. Nymph, nympholepsy,
two sides of a coin; can
one avoid any ?
7. Bun and bread - butter
aren't they essentially
meant for survival ?
8. Poverty, palm tree
grow gradually upward
to touch the sky high.
9. Blood and money move
in circles of their own orbs
of body and nation.
10. Sky pours profusely

earth soaks solemnly seeds
sprout abundantly.

11. The deep well wall - tree
caught and clasped by the child
licking honey - drops.
12. Long beaked Crow caws
heralding arrival of
an unwelcome guest.

© Dr. M. V. ATRE, Mumbai (India). 20.08.2007.

Behind the Scenic Route of a Virtual Book Tour

A guide for planning a Virtual Book Tour based on the real-life tour of Selena's Crystal Balls, A Magical Journey through the Chakras by Anita Ryan-Revel

Anita Ryan-Revel is an author based in Margaret River, a small town three hours south of the world's most isolated capital city, Perth, Western Australia. In bringing her book to the world stage, Anita proves that if someone as isolated as her can do it, then it's a piece of cake for anyone.

Isolation wasn't Anita's only challenge in promoting her newest book, *Selena's Crystal Balls, A Magical Journey through the Chakras*. She was also on a tight budget, and had a family that needed her at home.

The solution? Anita decided she would still tour with her book, only she would do it virtually, by visiting blogs and websites around the world and sharing her insights with blog owners and their visitors. She subsequently "toured" her book for an entire month in June 2007, visiting 17 blogs and websites in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Canada, America, and the United Kingdom.

Anita's hosts all focused on different interests ranging from spiritual growth, to jewelry, to dance, to angel gatherings, to healing, to "chick" fun and more.

"I really enjoyed the diversity and the opportunities to demonstrate how 'spirituality' and 'empowerment' can be found in many aspects of life – not just New Age sites," she says.

"Taking a children's book to a Sex and the City style site, for example, was very interesting in that the readers are sassy fashionists, yet they still have daughters or nieces who they could (and did) buy the book for."

Anita felt that her Virtual Book Tour (VBT) was so successful that she put together a guide on how authors can set one up for themselves.

"With my years of managing marketing campaigns for clients big and small, I can say I am very happy with the format and contents of this guide. Not only does it cover the "Five Ps" of marketing (product, promotion, place, price and people), but it's easy too!" she says.

Anita's guide, *Behind the Scenic Route of a Virtual Book Tour*, includes a step-by-step plan for your VBT and covers topics from "Establish Your Intention" to "What I Will Do Differently Next Time." Her candid "Tips for Success" are honestly refreshing and practical, as is the rest of her guide.

More information: www.goddess.com.au/eBooks

Anita Ryan-Revel is the creatrix of the info-rich website Goddess.com.au – a popular site full of tips for achieving chakra vitality. A columnist for United Press International, Anita has incorporated her passion into various books, magazines and hundreds of articles that are sprinkled across the Internet. Her first book was The Goddess Guide to Chakra Vitality, which continues to inspire women all around the world to connect with their beautiful, inspired, sacred and sassy selves. Anita lives in sunny Western Australia with her man, her son and her dog (also a male!)

Network with Us



Writers in the Sky Newsletter

Add your announcement or brag about your writing accomplishment. Tell us about your book or business. Share information and ideas or send articles or advertorial for the next issue to writer@yvonneperry.net. Remember, you may post a comment on my blog <http://yvonneperry.typepad.com/ghostwriters/> anytime. Here are some announcements from our readers this month:

Short Adaptation Film Contest

The mission of the Short Adaptation Film Contest is to make an emotional impact on viewers with your unique vision of the story at hand.

We are striving to inspire, promote and reward innovative talent in the field of film. By challenging filmmakers to adapt a scene or chapter from a common book into a visually powerful message, we constrain the contest entrants to a single storyline. Conversely, we offer virtually no restrictions beyond that original premise.

Submitted films may take almost any form the entrants might choose. The Short Adaptation Film Contest will accept live action or animated submissions. Filmmakers are free to select any scene or chapter that strikes their fancy. Shoot for drama, comedy, suspense, horror, romance or any combination you wish. Our only limitation being that you shoot with an "R" rating or lower as your guideline.

The official selection for adaptation to the screen is the novel, "Burritos and Gasoline," by Jamie Beckett. The storyline of this work of fiction lends itself to a wide variety of visual interpretations.

From a practical standpoint, the benefits of this novel to a filmmaker on a limited budget are the following -

- Casting requires only a small number of actors.

- Few of the locations require elaborate recreations.

- No dramatic, expensive or potentially dangerous stunts are required to tell the story.

All of which adds up to, "Burritos and Gasoline," being a solid choice for a filmmaker who is willing to take up the challenge and adapt a novel, or even a small portion of that novel, to the screen.

The Short Adaptation Film Contest commences on September 1, 2007. All submissions must be postmarked no later than midnight, March 21, 2008.

So fire up that imagination and get cracking! Your adaptation just might be the one our judges have been waiting for.

Thought this was a real nifty site. Go to <http://www.newbookclubs.com/> and see how you can submit your own book to book clubs! I've not tried it myself, but it's worth passing on.

Dorothy Thompson

PUMP UP YOUR BOOK PROMOTION VIRTUAL BOOK TOURS

"Leave your tour in our hands!"

<http://www.pumpupyourbookpromotion.com>

<http://www.virtualbooktoursforauthors.blogspot.com>

The Writing Show is looking for two holiday-themed short stories to feature on our Christmas/Chanukah/Kwanzaa/winter solstice show this year. The stories will be read in December by the authors or readers of the authors' choosing. The December holidays must play a significant role in the story, which must not exceed 4000 words. Any genre is okay.

Your ability to tell a compelling story is the most important criterion we'll use in making our selections. You must hold the audio rights to your work. No payment, unfortunately, but what you do get is the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with our vibrant

community!

Send work to Paula Berinstein at paula@writingshow.com no later than October 15, 2007.

The Writing Show, where writing is always the story <http://www.writingshow.com>

Reading and Writing Appreciation Week October 15-19, 2007

Are you looking for that place to let others know you will visit a school? Here is a new web site to place your author information so schools can contact you. <http://musingourchildren.tripod.com/id18.html> . Most of all have fun visiting your schools as you to talk about what it means to be a writer! Don't forget to read your book and connect your book with a fun activity. Pass this great opportunity on to your author friends!

~ Jewel Sample, Award-winning author of "Flying Hugs and Kisses"

Experience the Romance and Elegance of Georgian and Regency England

Historical romance author Hazel Statham is proud to announce her DOMINIC VIRTUAL BOOK TOUR '07 in September! Visit her tour page at <http://www.virtualbooktoursforauthors.blogspot.com/> for details of where she will appear.

London 1775: Dominic Blake, Earl of Vale, is a young man of privilege and breeding whose world is turned upside-down by Jack, a beautiful young girl in boys' clothing whom he finds sheltering on his doorstep after fleeing an attack by her abusive brother.

Despite leaving his protection, Jack is once more destined to enter Dominic's life when, injured in a horse race, Dominic is forced to rusticate to his father's estate and again meets Jack in her boyish guise. In turn, when becomes his pupil and his love. Despite danger and misunderstandings, this is the story of their unconventional and delightful courtship.

Available now from:

[Wings ePress](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Barnes & Noble 269&z=y#CRV](#)

For reviews etc. please visit www.hazel-statham.co.uk or contact Hazel at hazel.statham1@ntlworld.com

To promote her upcoming fantasy romance novel, ENCHANTING THE LADY, RELICS OF MERLIN, author Kathyrene Kennedy has launched a contest on her website. ENCHANTING THE LADY is the first novel in the RELICS OF MERLIN series. Merlin used thirteen different jewels as a focus for thirteen mysterious spells, and the 'magical' jewel in this first book is a pearl. Since the setting of the novel takes place in an alternate Victorian London, this contest features a lovely hand-carved Italian cameo with pearl accents as the prize! Visit the author's website for a picture and description of the prize, along with all the details: <http://www.kathyrenekennedy.com>.

The contest ends September 30, 2007.

Write On! Staff writer Kate Garvey has created the Pet Care Resource Center of America (www.PetCareRCA.com) which provides free pet care tips and animal welfare alerts. If you join her email list, you'll receive a free copy of "Preventing Animal Abuse-10 Things That Work." This eBook is currently being used by veterinary schools and rescue organizations in the mid-west.

Michelle Kane, author of CONFESSIONS OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOLGIRL, is personally donating 25% of profits from sales of this book to domestic violence shelters. CONFESSIONS OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOLGIRL is currently under consideration for

the Michigan Notable Book Awards (2007) and Writer's Digest Magazine International Self-Published Book Awards. For more info: www.michellekane.com.

COMING SEPT. 1ST 2007: The ultimate community membership website for writers, authors and industry experts. CallingAllAuthors.org is an organization that brings on-going, reality-based information and assistance to writers in a wholly interactive and innovative way. This is *the* place for writers to connect with other writers and industry experts who know what they need to learn, to share what they already know, to become a member with access to the latest writing, publishing and marketing information on the planet. Building an interactive community is made possible by the latest Open Source website concept called Joomla! Community Builder. Three levels of access --- Public, Registered and Member --- will provide site visitors opportunity for limited, broader and broadest access to site information and educational events.

Articles from industry experts and innovative authors, the Great Links resources, polling on interesting topics, regularly scheduled teleseminars and webinars with Valerie Connelly (Nightengale Press Publisher and Global Talk Radio Talk Show Host) and a broad spectrum of expert co-hosts, will all bring the latest information and tips to writers and authors. Downloadable **Audio Mini-Clip Libraries** of useful writing, publishing and marketing tips, monthly 30-minute **Publisher's Corner Lessons** videos, as well as an on site daily newsletter, blog, IM communications by permission with other registered members, User Profiles, and much more.

Visit www.callingallauthors.org to register.

Over the past few months we have been in full production making PreViews – similar to movie trailers and they have been a great hit! To celebrate the success of the PreViews and our new producer, Jamieson Wolf, coming on board, we decided to give our authors a discounted rate. This special rate will only be in effect until end of August.

Check it out: <http://www.readerviews.com/PreViewsServices.html>

Taking an Idea and Running with it

It all began with her husband's addiction to Law & Order reruns on USA Network. Nightly, she heard two words repeated over and over again: "Characters welcome."

To best-selling, award-winning author Janet Elaine Smith, both the writing and the marketing of her books is serious business. But it's also the best way in the world to have a whole lot of fun.

Agent Gail Fortune (then editor for Berkley/Jove Publishing) once asked Janet, "Do you ever write anything serious?" Janet's quick reply was "I'm very serious about my writing, but I never write anything very serious."

Fellow Star Publish author Carolyn Howard-Johnson said of Janet, as their Marketing Director, "...other publishers don't have what we do; we have a Janet Elaine Smith."

But turn her loose on an audience, whether in a chat room, on the phone, in an e-group or "live," if she doesn't have you laughing in the first five minutes, there is something terribly wrong.

And that's where her characters come into play. Most of them are as nutty as Janet is, so she decided to bring them to life by giving them their own websites.

Where did that leave her? Well, for Monday Knight, it meant that she gets her own e-mail, has collected more AOL and Earthlink free hours by snail mail than Janet has, gets free pantyhose (Janet knew it wasn't for her, even before she saw Monday's name on the address label; it was too small for Janet!), has met and gone on tour with the pop band Smash Mouth (they even took her to Live with Regis and Kelly), has become a spokeswoman for MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), gone up the Amazon River, and been taken on an excursion to watch the planets line up from the top of a mountain in Connecticut.

Now, Janet would like to help you do the same thing with the characters from your books. To find out about how this whole thing

came about, check out the facts behind the story here. USA TV isn't the only place where Characters are Welcome! Check it out at <http://characters-welcome-websites.tripod.com>. Don't miss out on the fun!

USA Network--Move over! <http://characters-welcome-websites.tripod.com>

CHRISTMAS is a Comin' and the Goose is Gettin' Fat...

Now available for a community theater near you, A Christmas Dream: A 3-Act Play

See a sample at <http://janetesmithstarbooks.tripod.com>

Now available at Amazon here: <http://tinyurl.com/2u99fl>

Suite101.com Hires Dating Expert Cherie Burbach

August 15, 2007 – Vancouver, BC – Suite101.com, an online magazine with more 10 years on the Web and attracting more than 2 million readers monthly, proudly announces dating and relationship expert Cherie Burbach as their new Dating Feature Writer. Burbach will help round out Suite101.com's Parents & Partners section with the launch of a new Dating site at <http://dating.suite101.com>. The site provides free articles, resources, and blogs on dating and relationship issues.

Cherie Burbach is an online relationship consultant with [Personals Trainer](#), helping daters write great profiles that catch attention. She used her experience with meeting her husband online to pen *At the Coffee Shop*, a humorous look at the world of Internet dating. Burbach knows what it's like to maneuver the dating world while trying to find someone who is exactly right for you. Her new book, *Internet Dating is Not Like Ordering a Pizza* will be released in late September from Bonjour Publishing.

"People today are getting married later and enjoying the adventure that dating can sometimes be.," said Burbach. "Singles know they don't need to settle, so they're not just looking for someone to marry, they're looking for the *right* someone. And in the meantime, they're thriving with their independent status."

Readers of Suite101's new Dating site are provided with the opportunity to share their own views and feedback and interact with Burbach directly through site discussion boards. Readers can sign up for updates on her articles through RSS feeds.

Burbach says today's singles have more opportunities than ever before to meet the right people. Suite101's Dating site provides information on speed dating, online dating, keeping a relationship strong, how to read the signs of cheating, how to spot an emotional affair... and much more.

Flying Hugs and Kisses Activity Book Released

Flying Hugs and Kisses Activity Book

By Jewel Sample

Publisher: Lifestest Publishing, Inc.

ISBN 159879377-2

Editors: For interview requests contact Jewel Sample

Contact information:

Jewel Sample

Email: JMSample@aol.com

Blog: <http://jewelsamples.blogspot.com>

Jewel Sample's latest publication, *Flying Hugs and Kisses Activity Book* offers a message of hope for grieving families. Her activity book is designed to accompany the storybook, *Flying Hugs and Kisses*. The activity book has fun educational coloring and writing activities, games, and puzzles to help elementary age children answer questions about grief and loss with compassion and hope.

Flying Hugs and Kisses is about five children who creatively take on roles of support toward each other while showing their individual feelings about the death of their baby brother to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Sample's book, *Flying Hugs and Kisses* won The National Parenting Center 2007 Seal of Approval."

The National Parenting Center Seal of Approval report indicates, "Jewel Sample does a wonderful job of breaking down some of the confusing terms that children hear during times like these and celebrates the love and strength that family provides." The National Parenting Center's 2007 Seal of Approval full report is at tnpc.com.

Sample's sensitive story and activity book are a great resource for professionals and families to use to help children cope with the loss of a young loved one. *Flying Hugs and Kisses* (ISBN 159879119-2) is available in the Spanish language titled, *Besos y abrazos al aire* (ISBN 159879292-1). The National SIDS/Infant Death Resource Center has selected Sample's books as a bereavement resource for families with children.

Flying Hugs and Kisses Activity Book and Sample's other books are directly available through most major booksellers and Lifestest Publishing's <http://AuthorsToBelieveIn.com> e-bookstore or by calling toll free 1-877-843-1007. Visit Jewel at her blog, Jewel's Sand Box News or her web page, Around The Sand Box.

Readers' Station Quarterly Newsletter - New Edition Online

http://www.readersstation.com/august_2007.htm

Elena Dorothy Bowman – Book Signing

Barnes and Noble Booksellers

235 Daniel Webster Highway

Nashua, New Hampshire 03066

(603) 888-0533

Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Nikki Leigh – Virtual Book Tour for Lady Lightkeeper (Misty Cove Chronicles – Book Two)

This is the schedule for Nikki's book tour. She would love to have you visit her at any of these stops.

Sept 3 – Pump Up Your Book Promotion - <http://www.pumpupyouronlinebookpromotion.blogspot.com/>

Sept 4 – Be My Guest!- <http://www.bloggingleaders.blogspot.com/>

Sept 5 – Author Talks - <http://www.authortalks.blogspot.com/>

Sept 6 – Sharon Hurley Hall – <http://doublehdesigns.com/blog>

Sept 7 - Bryn Colvin - http://blog.myspace.com/brynneth_n_colvin

Sept 10 – The Writer's Life - www.thewriterslife.net/author_interviews.html

Sept 12- Muze's Musings - www.muzesmusings.blogspot.com

Sept 13 - Cheryl Malandrinos - <http://thebookconnectionccm.blogspot.com/>

Sept 14 - Pam Kinney - <http://pamelakinney.blogspot.com/>

Sept 17 – Plug Your Book!- www.plugyourbook.blogspot.com

Sept 18 - Mary Emma Allen - <http://maryemmallen.blogspot.com/>

Sept 19 - Elena Dorothy Bowman - <http://elenadorothybowmansbooks.blogspot.com/>

Sept 20 – Straight from the Author's Mouth - www.straightfromtheauthorsmouth.blogspot.com/

Sept 21 - Inspired Author - Self Promotion - <http://inspiredauthor.com/v3/node/12>

Sept 24 – The Story Behind the Books - www.thestorybehindthebooks.blogspot.com/

Sept 25 - Cheryl Tardif - <http://www.writetype.blogspot.com/>

Sept 26 - Epress Publishing - http://community.livejournal.com/epress_online/

Sept 27 - Jennifer Haines - www.a2eatwrite.blogspot.com

Sept 28 – Boomer Chick - <http://www.overthehillchick.blogspot.com/>

Promotional Blogs for Authors

These are promotional blogs. Are there any elements from your book that you would like to share with others? Click on any of the blogs to read some of the great submissions. There is at least one new post on each blog. If you're interested in participating, click on HOW TO SUBMIT on any of the blogs to learn how to submit your book.

First Chapter Blog - Share the First Chapter of Your Book

<http://startatbeginning.blogspot.com/>

Share Information about the Best Friend in Your Book

<http://mybestfriendsstory.blogspot.com/>

Judge a Book by Its Cover - Share Your Book Cover and the Story Behind the Cover

<http://judgebookbycover.blogspot.com/>

Its All In the Setting - Tell Us More About the Setting of Your Book

<http://itsallinthesetting.blogspot.com/>

Share Information About the Heroine of Your Book

<http://shareyourheroine.blogspot.com/http://shareyourheroine.blogspot.com/>

Share Information About the Hero of Your Book

<http://shareyourhero.blogspot.com/>

Tell Us About the Bad Guy or Bad Girl in Your Book

<http://badguysandvillains.blogspot.com/>

Start With the Facts - For All Non Fiction Books and many Fiction

<http://startwithfacts.blogspot.com/>

These blogs are used as stops for virtual author tours, so they are promoted each week. It's a fun way to help new people hear about your books. For more information – nikki-leigh@excite.com.

Nikki Leigh will be interviewing authors most days. For complete information about current interviews, visit www.muzesmusings.blogspot.com.

Online book publicity workshop helps authors build buzz

Got a book coming out you want to hype? Has your publisher's publicist moved on to other projects? Do you have a book in stores that you know deserves more media attention than it's getting? Are you working on a proposal that would benefit from a better understanding of what you can do to promote your book? You need "Book Publicity 101: How to Build Book Buzz," a dynamic online course taught by a veteran publicist and author.

Offered **October 1-26, 2007**, the class is taught in a forum format, with lessons and homework assignments posted online in a private, password-protected forum. The highly-interactive course covers:

- How to create a book publicity blueprint you'll be excited about
- The single secret most authors don't know about generating ongoing media exposure
- The most effective and cost-efficient publicity tactics
- How to generate buzz online using virtual book tours and other techniques
- Radio and TV producer hot buttons
- How to bring an energizing new level of creativity to your publicity efforts

Students receive instructional materials and resources and complete weekly assignments that help them discover how easy it is to create book buzz. Student interaction on the forum enhances the learning experience by offering fresh perspectives and new ideas for all participants while instructor guidance and input takes your work to the next level. A free-for-all Q&A corner lets students get answers to questions not covered in the course materials, making this a highly-personalized learning experience for nonfiction

and fiction authors.

Registration is \$129 for Freelance Success subscribers and \$149 for others.

The class is taught by Sandra Beckwith, a recovering award-winning publicist, publisher of the free e-newsletter Build Book Buzz, and author of three books, including *Streetwise Complete Publicity Plans: How to Create Publicity That Will Spark Media Exposure and Excitement*. Although published in 2003, *Streetwise Complete Publicity Plans* continues to remain in the news years later, thanks to Beckwith's book publicity efforts. She has also successfully publicized the books of others. Subscribe to her free Build Book Buzz e-newsletter at www.buildbookbuzz.com.

Registration is limited to 20 students; **deadline for registration is September 28, 2007.**

Register at <http://www.buildbookbuzz.com/workshops/book-publicity.htm>; send course inquiries to Beckwith at sb@buildbookbuzz.com.

Writing to Weave the Spell

By Mary E. Martin

As you may know, I'm a great fan of the works of the Canadian author, Robertson Davies. So, when I'm looking for inspiration and ideas, I turn to his articles on writing. I came across a speech he gave in 1990 for the Tanner Lectures in New Haven, Connecticut. One is entitled simply *Writing*, the other *Reading*.

What makes a novel good or even really great, so that it will be read one hundred years from now (or more)? What takes a novel out of its own time, so to speak, to become universal?

I have to quote Davies from his speech where he talks of an essential quality he calls *shamanstvo*.

To weave the spell, the writer must have within him something comparable to the silk spinning and web-casting gift of a spider; he must not only have something to say, some story to tell, or some wisdom to impart, but he must have a characteristic way of doing it which entraps and holds still his prey, by which I mean his reader.

When reading this, I first think of shamans (i.e., *shamanstvo*)—some sort of mystic, a healer, with powers not given to mere mortals. Perhaps a trickster or someone claiming to communicate with gods.

A tall order for us who toil before our computers, hoping for inspiration to just wrap up the plot or get a bit of dialogue right.

But it's true! Remember the last time you picked up a novel and from the very first sentence, you were transfixed, inexorably drawn into the world the writer had created? I suppose that's the "un-put-down-able" quality we all seek.

Somehow, I don't think Davies meant the quality of a real "page turner." He knew the value of lingering over a passage and the savouring of language. It's got to be something else.

I really like this quote from Davies. "The silk to make the web comes from within the spider and is produced naturally from it. The spider doesn't know how it does this. It is just its inherent ability." And so, Davies must be talking about the grand sum of our whole self which produces this story—or silk. It is a product of the writer's *being*.

And it should have a story to tell or some wisdom to impart. But I think the real secret is contained in the last few phrases. "... a characteristic way of doing it which entraps and holds still his prey, by which I mean his reader." Obviously, it has to be highly personal and individual to the writer. And it must be a story or a thought, which virtually impales the reader with its significance.

How can the writer hope to do such a thing? After all, my experience is personal to me, just as yours is to you. How, by drawing on my own personal experience, can I hope to ensnare you into my web? And better still, capture thousands of readers, all of whom have their own personal worlds? How can I ever hope to enchant a reader with my world?

Immediately, I think of the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung and the collective unconscious which we all share. If a writer can access

that level of the unconscious, perhaps he can bring into his writing that which is common or universal to all humankind. Of course, the writer interprets that material and adapts it to his own personal experience of life. But still, he has drawn upon emotions, thoughts, archetypes, symbols and signs, even myths from that great library of human experience we all share—the collective unconscious.

Perhaps that is how we come full circle to the idea of *shamanstvo*. That charmer, enchanter quality. Shamans are indeed mystics. They have special access to inner worlds—as I understand it—by way of gift. But that does not mean we can't try to enter those worlds where the creative materials of universal appeal are buried.

But Davies would not likely agree with me. To him, you either have shamanstvo or you don't. Of course, he says that everyone has a personal unconscious which is rooted in the collective unconscious.

But the difference is this. The kind of writer he means is one who has (in his words):

the ability to invite it, to solicit its assistance, to hear what it has to say and impart it in a language that is particularly his own. He may not be—very probably is not—fishing up messages from the unconscious which astonish and strike dumb his readers. It is more likely that he is telling them things that they recognize as soon as they hear them.

There you go! If it's something they recognize immediately, then it must be drawn up (dredged up?) from the collective unconscious shared by all of us. Put in more mythological terms, it sounds just like the ability to court the muse.

So, next time we're writing and get stuck, perhaps it's best to just take a nap. Why? Because dreams, they say, are the gateway to the unconscious.

Mary E. Martin is the author of the OSGOOD TRIOLOGY. To see her attempts at shamanstvo, visit her website at www.osgoodtrilogy.com. The first in the trilogy CONDUCT IN QUESTION was published in 2005, the second, FINAL PARADOX, in 2006. The third, A TRIAL OF ONE, will be out in September 2007.

The Writing Life: Writing is a Sensory Experience



By [JJ Murphy](#)

Several years ago I asked a fifth-grade nature class, "How many senses do we have?"

A student's hand shot up as he said, "Six."

We rely on our sense of sight for the bulk of our daily activities. We look, and then sometimes listen. But we have the ability to touch, taste and smell. I agree with that fifth-grader, our intuitive sense (the "little voice inside") is another way to experience our world.

Have you ever read something and become so involved that you felt the finger-numbing cold, the shudder of fear or the dry mouth?

Here are some things to think about when using sensory experience to enrich your writing.

1. What do you sense? Start by closing your eyes, take a deep breath, exhale and listen. What noises do you hear that you didn't notice before? What does the air feel like on your skin? Does your nose itch? If it is safe, touch something in your immediate environment. Is it smooth, rough, warm, cold, sticky or crumbly?

2. A good excuse to eat. One way to get involved in developing your sense of taste is to think about what the first bite tastes like. Is it smooth or crunchy, sweet or savory, spicy or mild? What does the food smell like? Does the aroma make you salivate before

you put the food in your mouth? Close your eyes, take a bite and taste the food. How does it feel on your tongue, teeth and throat as it travels to your stomach?

3. Mix it up. I always loved the game where you close your eyes and touch a series of things. Touch a peeled grape or strands of spaghetti, taste your hair or your sweater, inhale the aroma of your pet's fur. Why would you want to do that? In *Stay: Keeper's Story* the protagonist is a dog. I aspire to Lois Lowry's attention to detail. A human takes her hand from her pocket and reaches out to pet Keeper, who describes what the inside of a pocket smells like. I'm not crazy about personification, but Keeper's voice is truthful.

4. Explore the good and the bad. Does the aroma of steamed asparagus make you salivate or gag? What happens to daylight just before a storm? What does a garbage can smell like when you lift the lid on a summer day? What makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up? What gives you butterflies in your stomach?

5. A little goes a long way. You don't need to include every sense in every paragraph. Think about what is going on in your story. What sensory detail you describe depends on whether your subject or character has time to notice the details and if the information helps engage your readers.

JJ Murphy is a nature writer, curriculum creator, blogging hiker, locavore, and tree-hugger currently based in Harriman, NY. Visit <http://www.writerbynature.com> for more information on JJ's writing services and her favorite places for gear and supplies



Jessica Dockter with *L.E.E. Design* is the graphic designer for the Write On Creative Writing Services team. As the designer of this newsletter, she is also available to assist you with your graphic design needs, such as:

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Visit her Web site at www.leedesign.org. For questions or a quote, call Jessica at 615.681.4401 or email her at leedesign@leedesign.org

This newsletter relies on subscribers like you to send in articles, tips and resources. Therefore, the more subscribers we have, the more information we have to share and the more your message gets in front of others. Tell your writing and publishing colleagues about Writers in the Sky Newsletter or forward it to others you know who may be interested.

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If you wish to contribute an article, advertorial, blurb, announcement about writing, publishing or book marketing, please review these guidelines and submit your item to writer@yvonneperry.net

- Limit articles to 750 words or less.
- The piece must be about the craft or business of writing and publishing.
- Include a short bio with your submission so I may give proper credit.
- Use Times New Roman 11 point font.
- MS Word docs are okay, but txt files are preferred.
- Promotion of your own material is accepted if it is written in an advertorial (article) style.
- No colored text box (jpg, bmp, etc.) ads. The article must be content rich.
- Book reviews are accepted as long as they highlight the book and its author in a positive manner.
- Poetry is accepted. I will publish three short works (less than 25 lines) in each issue. Do not double space between lines.
- Announcements of upcoming events, personal accomplishments, special offers, etc. are accepted. Try to keep these less than 250 words.
- Each submitting writer retains the copyright to his or her own piece of literature and may use it elsewhere.
- Since I do not charge a fee for the newsletter, I am unable to pay for submittals. However, the networking opportunity is worth a lot.
- The newsletter will be sent on the first of each month. I need all submittals in by the 25th day of the month prior.

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