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THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

January 2009

"WRITE YOUR HEART OUT!"

January 23, 2009 – 10 a.m.

**Bowling Green Church of the Nazarene
15341 Gorrill Road**

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

You won't want to miss our annual writing bash when **Denise Shumway** provides her usual intriguing and stimulating topics to start us off on what could be the best thing you ever wrote! We write on the spot and then later, if you wish, share your fantastic piece with the group. Try it! You'll like it! It should be less cold next week, so come and help us have a good turnout for our first meeting of 2009.

Remember – if the Bowling Green Schools are closed or delayed because of bad weather we will NOT meet!

**BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGRAM – 10 A.M.
LUNCH – NOON – BROWN BAG OR NEARBY FAST FOOD
CRITIQUE SESSION – 1-2 P.M.**

(please bring several or more copies of what you want critiqued)

EXTEND AN INVITATION

If you have friends interested in writing, tell them about us. We meet on the fourth Friday of January, March, May, July, and October. And don't forget to mention the October seminar that features experienced speakers who share their writing and editing expertise. Members get a price break on this

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DUES ARE DUE!!

It's that time again! Dues are \$10 - \$3 for newsletter only. Make your check out to Northwest Ohio Christian Writers, and bring to the January meeting or send to Linda Tippett, 5679 Monroe St. #109, Sylvania, OH 43560. It's a good deal, folks! Dues for the Northwest Ohio Writers Forum have gone up to \$30 per year!

2009 SEMINAR NEWS!

Be sure to make plans now to attend the 2009 Seminar because we have been able to engage the immensely popular writer and speaker, Dennis Hensley, as our speaker. You won't want to miss this one! Note the new date....OCTOBER 10.

DON'T FORGET...WE'RE ON THE INTERNET!!!

If you haven't seen it yet, take a look at our Website...www.nwocw.org and you'll find an extremely informative and comprehensive presentation of our group. Member **Stephen Ricker** is our excellent Webmaster. (This newsletter will be posted, too, so if you want to share it with a friend, just direct them to the Website.)

FROM OUR PREZ – KATHY SEZ...

WRITING FOR DOLLARS

You've heard of "Bowling for Dollars" and "Big Bucks for a Hole in One." How would you like some cash to help pay your way to a writers conference?

Longtime NWOCW member, Paula Cordes, now writes as one whose faith has been made sight. In her memory, her family donated a \$50 monetary gift to enable a member of the NWOCW group to attend a writers conference. If you would like to attend an upcoming conference – but need some extra cash to do so – this could be just what you've been hoping for!

Maybe there's one publishing house where you've been trying to "get your foot in the door" and one of their editors will be at an upcoming event. Or maybe you'd like to attend a speakers conference to improve your verbal communications skills (Authors end up becoming speakers, too!)

All you have to do to apply for this scholarship is write a note or send an e-mail to the officers (you may address it to Kathy Douglas, President) and tell us what conference you'd like to use it for, and why you'd like to attend the event. If possible, we'd like to award this gift to someone at one of our next meetings. (If you can't attend, we will mail it to you.)



Even if you've already earned \$\$ as an author, or speaker this year, we know your dirty little secret: you probably haven't topped the 6-digit mark. So, send in your applications! Writer or author or speaker, we want to help you hone your craft.

SAVE THE DATE!

Remember to mark your calendar for our 2009 Retreat to be held May 1 and 2 at the Lial Renewal Center, a retreat facility in Whitehouse, OH. The price will be around \$35 and accommodations include private rooms. So make your plans now to join us this year!

If you have an idea for a program you'd like to see at the Retreat, let Kathy know. We're open to suggestions.

A MUST FOR 2009!

On November 7 and 8 two members of the NWOCW attended the Wesleyan Publishing Houses' Indianapolis Christian Writers Conference. It was better than the annual Write-to-Publish conference in Wheaton – and cheaper, too!

“Why should I go in 2009?” you might ask.
Good question. Here are some answers.

1. One-on-one meetings with editors
Many publishing houses no longer accept unsolicited material. If you want to write for them, you have to have MET WITH ONE OF THEIR EDITORS to have your stuff looked at.
2. Getting specific tips on specific markets.
One editor said, “Teen slang has a shelf life of milk.”
3. Learning where the industry is
Blogs are now good to have and can be good resources too, As an author you need both.
The Internet has completely changed the industry. The customers are looking for US – not the other way around. For good or ill, the cyber community is here.
A panel of editors agreed that they don't look for potential material on line.
They want to see you and your writing in person – go to a writer's conference.
4. Motivation
Author and pastor Stan Toler blew everyone away with his sage advice and humor. (There a CD of his keynote address available)
5. Internet Advice
A 20-year-old college student, who started his \$100,000-a-year on-line business when he was 18, offered great tips on all things related to the Internet.
6. Cyber-Sabbath
Author and speaker Jim Watkins suggests a weekly cyber-Sabbath. He doesn't even turn on the computer from 6 p.m. Saturday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

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The two-day event included editors, writers, speakers, and more from a variety of companies in the industry. Conferees can sign up for 15-minute interviews with editors to “get their foot in the door” in the tight Christian publishing industry. Meals were “on your own”, so keeping costs down is do-able. Hotel room? \$80 a night for two! Can’t beat that!

So, are you ready to travel to Indianapolis next year? It’s well worth the trip and the money.

- Kathy D.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- On Sally Stuart’s blog there’s an announcement about a new e-book called *Top Book Marketing Tips of 2008*. It’s a free download and can be obtained at <http://snipr.com/bookmarketingtips>
- There’s a new market listed in the most recent *Christian Communicator* for sci-fi fan/writers/poets. Check it out at www.mindflights.com
- **CHURCHMOUSE PUBLICATIONS**, a web-based publishing syndicate created to serve the Christian community has issued an OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS to new and established Christian authors and creators for features in the following areas: Church Administration and Leadership, Children’s Material, Young Adults, ages 22-35. For submission information, e-mail submissions@churchmousepublications.com . For information about the syndicate, go to www.churchmousepublication.com
- **THE FIRST LINE** – a quarterly writers contest. They create a line which must be the first line of a short story. Winners get published in their quarterly and win some cash, too. See their web page www.thefirstline.com
- **FROM CROSS AND QUILL:**
Fresh Air Books (freshairbooks.org) is a new imprint of Upper Room Ministries you may want to check out.
Warner Press (warnerpress.com) has some guidelines for submissions you might want to investigate.

FROM CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATOR

Ignite Your Faith is open to submissions. See page 474 in Sally Stuart’s *Christian Writer’s Market Guide*.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

CAPSTONE FICTION – a new inspirational fiction publishing house, newly listed in the 2008 Christian Writers’ Market Guide. Check it out www.capstonefiction.com

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CHRISTIAN STORY TELLER – A nonprofit website of Christian authors for Christian authors by Christian authors. It highlights up-and-coming authors and books, and offers marketing seminar and education for Christian writing. Publishes an interesting newsletter. Get details at www.christianstoryteller.com

INTERESTING AND INCREDIBLY VARIED WEBSITE of writing helps, book recommendations, articles, contests, publishing news, and Christian inspiration. www.aprilboyer.com This is really worth a look. She works out of Ashland, OH.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

Children's Writer & Illustrator's Market – www.cwim.com

Poet's Market – www.poetsmarket.com

Guide to Literary Agents – www.guidetoliteraryagents.com

Novel & Short Story Writers Market – www.novelandshortstory.com

GRAMMAR GIRL – A great site for grammar tips with looser interpretations. “Yes, it IS okay to end sentences with a preposition!” www.grammar.quickanddirtytips.com

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP - This organization offers articles and forums for writers to participate in, as well as an extremely informative newsletter. www.christianwritersgroup.org

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD – Log on to this Website and you'll learn about conferences, news and other events relating to the Christian writing field. www.christianwritersguild.com

MEMBERS' MEMOS

From **Betty Everett**: “I would like to thank all the members of NWOCW for the cards, e-mails, calls, and attendance at Horace's funeral service...and especially for the PRAYERS. Please keep them coming!”

Also look for Betty's article in the January issue of *Country Living*. It's a timely piece on an ice carver!

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Ruthann Sielkin** on the recent loss of her aunt with whom she has lived and assisted for several years.

Congratulations to **Margaret Wise** who was a winner in the first annual photo contest of the Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District. Her winning photo was titled “Morning on the Deck”.

Out -of-town member **Bev Schwind** had a book signing with her new children's book, *Blackberry Jetboy*, in Port Clinton, OH in December. The story is about a young girl in foster care who befriends a horse which she name “Blackberry”, and learns forgiveness through her relationship. The book has received acclaim from child welfare rehabilitation, education and media professionals.

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Ask Edith (Dede) Plettner about her new book *100 Ways to Brighten Your Days: Down-Home Poems To Lift You Up*. We guarantee you'll find a smile on your face!

Don't forget! Please continue to let us know about your publishing news and other significant happenings in your lives.

ALMOST THE LAST WORD

(From *100 Ways to Brighten Your Days*)

If Christ can add to loaves and fishes
He can help you do the dishes.

When I go to church I find
God redecorates my mind.

Play a praise song; sing a hymn!
Feel your soul revive again.

Your birthday **MUST** be celebrated.
Look at what the Lord created!

If God can part a Sea of Red
He can get you out of bed.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**January 23, 2009- "Write Your Heart Out!"
On the spot writing.**

**Watch here for interesting upcoming programs presented
by our new members!**

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**If you have questions or need more information about our group, again contact
President Kathy Douglas – [mlka @ toast.net](mailto:mlka@toast.net)
Send newsletter information to [andamija @ bex.net](mailto:andamija@bex.net) or to 5679 Monroe St. #109,
Sylvania, OH 43560.**

**DIRECTIONS TO NAZARENE CHURCH: From 1-75, take exit 179, then State
Route 6 west (right) to Liberty Hi Rd. and turn right. Take Liberty Hi Rd, to
Gorrill Rd. and turn right. Church is on the right. From Bowling Green: Take**

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Conneaut Ave. west out of town. This will become Gorrill Rd. Church is on the left just after Mitchell Rd.

If you get lost, the church number is 419-352-2289