



Back to www.nwocw.org



THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

July 2009

“WRITING FOR CHILDREN”

July 24, 2009 – 10 a.m.

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

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

Sally Snyder, Ohio author and illustrator of educational children’s books, will share the inspiration for her two books, as well as the traumas of rejection letters and finally finding a publisher willing to take on the projects. As she discusses her books, *Hold the Fort* and *If It’s to Be, It’s Up to Me!*, she’ll also include some of the highlights of writing for children. So if you’ve ever thought about writing in this genre, or even if you haven’t....come and hear Sally’s tale of beginning to successfully write at a late stage in her life.

**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)

Remember this is the meeting when we will be preparing the seminar brochures for mailing. Please plan to stay after lunch to help. It normally goes very fast with many hands, and we should still have time for some critiquing.



Back to www.nwocw.org



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

LUNCH BUNCH SCHEDULED

Our next unofficial gathering will be Friday, August 21, at Panera's on Rt. 20 at noon. Come for great conversation, networking, and oh yes, food!

2009 SEMINAR NEWS!

Be sure to make plans now to attend the 2009 Seminar to hear the immensely popular writer and speaker, Dennis Hensley, as he leads our day long activities .You won't want to miss this one! Note the new date....OCTOBER 10. Brochures will be mailed in August.

TIFFANY ENERGIZES HER AUDIENCE

With an apparent limitless amount of energy and an amazing ability to multitask, Tiffany Colter, author, editor, and writing coach, gave the group insightful information on "Do Non-Fiction Articles Help Your Fiction?" at the May meeting.

Emphasizing that while non-fiction teaches you to make every word count, she said it also is the marketing tool that will get your byline out there for editors and agents to see, giving your credibility when you send any fiction their way. "Every single effort has the possibility to open doors. Make sure it's as excellent as possible."

With creative non-fiction (i.e. "The Perfect Storm") becoming a growing genre, extensive research for one article can unearth ideas that can be developed into fictionalized stories of real events or into straight fiction. Or if you're working on fiction, look at it with the idea there may be an aspect that would make a non-fiction article.

One piece of non-fiction you have to get absolutely right, she said, is your query letter...selling yourself. You are using words to paint a picture that you want the editor to buy, and your artistry must be convincing.

Again emphasizing that marketing is the name of the writing game, Tiffany said, "Every author must have a Website. You buy a domain name, and then do something with it. Find a Webmaster and create a site that shows off you and your articles. You can become a resource."

Another valuable marketing tool she uses to good advantage is her daily blog. She writes 200 words a day, and says she has hundreds of readers. Again, it's getting the name out there, and writing something readers want to read.

Although she has a strong interest in business writing, she also gives talks on other aspects of writing, runs her Writing Career Coach Course, writes for several publications, has written mystery/suspense novels, reads voraciously, home schools four children, and lives on a farm with ducks (and other animals).

To do all this and still have a successful writing career, she says you have to develop time-management skills – be able to efficiently multitask. And as her passion for writing and teaching comes through loud and clear, she says, “Always look where you’re going, not where you’ve been!”

To find out more about Tiffany and how she can be of help in your writing, go to her Website – www.writingcareercoach.com

LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

- from Kathy D.

We’d like to feature one of our members in each issue of our newsletter. If you’d like to submit a piece, e-mail it to Linda Tippett and she’ll paste it in. **If we get more than one submission, it’s first come, first published.** Since we don’t want to overwhelm our editor, we ask you limit your word count to 125 words. Just plain text only, please. We expect a clean copy; Linda doesn’t need the additional work of being your editor or spell checker.

Want to give it a shot? Be the first! Since we post our newsletter on our website, your creation will be out there for all snooping editors, readers and plagiarists. Never been published? Here’s your chance! We look forward to reading *your* stuff.

AND HERE’S OUR FIRST SUBMISSION!

- from Joyce Felske

WRITE ON – DON’T QUIT

If you are going to succeed in your writing you must PERSEVERE.

Perseverance says in the dictionary; “to continue a course of action, in spite of difficulty or opposition.”

God’s Word says we will have tribulations. Romans 5:3-4, “but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation works patience (perseverance); And patience, experience; and experience, hope.” Do you realize that tribulations keep us going? So when they come do not become discouraged and quit. But know that they will make you more persistent in keeping going and to persevere.

With difficulties or opposition the enemy is going to try to steer you away from your goal of writing. Have you have trials or problems that made you feel like throwing away your pen? When these feelings come, PRAY and know that you can have victory. God will give you perseverance to keep going. Ask Him! So WRITE ON AND DO NOT QUIT.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Remember that our group is a member of ACW – American Christian Writers. If you want to attend any of their conferences, or receive any of their magazines, you get a 10% discount. Our group’s chapter number is #3080.

- **Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference – August 6-8.** Philadelphia Biblical University, Langhorne, PA. Director, Marlene Bagnull. Always a good one with lots of editors. www.writehisanswer.com/Philadelphia (One of our members is attending this. See Members Memos)
- **Annual Buckeye Book Fair** - Saturday, November 7. A great opportunity to sell your most recent books. It's by invitation only; so check their requirements at www.buckeyebookfair.com
If you don't have a new book for sale, that's the same weekend (Nov 6-7) as the Indianapolis Christian Writers Conference sponsored by Wesleyan Publishing. It's highly recommended for both cost and quality.
- For you gardeners and poets...**"Garden Verse" Poetry Competition...**sponsored by *Horticulture* magazine. First place - \$250 each; Second- \$100 each; Third - \$50 each. Deadline – September 1, 2009. Entry fee - \$15. For rules www.hortmag.com/gardenversecomp
- **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



Back to www.nwocw.org



FROM *CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATOR*

Ignite Your Faith, a teen magazine, is open to submissions. See page 474 in Sally Stuart's *Christian Writer's Market Guide*. If you don't have a Guide, go to www.igniteyourfaith.com Hit the Writers Guidelines button.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

SOME NEW WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

www.writergazette.com

www.writersweekly.com

www.worldwidefreelance.com

www.writerincome.com

All these have helpful information and are worth looking into.

CHRISTIAN BOOK VIDEOS - a recently launched site as the one-stop viewing place for Christian book videos on the Internet. They're also called book previews or Book Trailers and are video ads for Christian books – a handy shortcut to find the kind of book you want to read. Now Christian booklovers can go to one website and view book videos for their favorite authors as well as find new ones. www.christianbooksvideos.com

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

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

MEMBERS' MEMOS

Congratulations to **Shelley Lee** who has been awarded one of the Cecil Murphey Scholarships to attend the Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference next month!! After notification that the scholarships were available, we nominated her



Back to www.nwocw.org



as a member of NWOCW. She will also receive the \$50 scholarship the group was awarded by the family of Paula Cordes for a member wanting to attend a Writers conference. It's Shelley's first, and we wish her the best experience possible!.

And not only that... Shelley has also been selected to be a contributing author to Barbour Publishing's upcoming *Heavenly Humor for the Dog Lover's Soul*.

Along with Shelley, **Kathy Douglas** will also be contributing to the *Heavenly Humor* book. Her new book, *Snakes, Snails, Puppy Dog Tales*, will be out this month. Her *Little Wags of Wisdom* and *Little Whiskers of Wisdom* are also out. **Kathy's new address as of next month is 12407 Co Rd 4, Swanton, OH 32558.**

Don't forget to check out our Website! Webmaster Steve Ricker has updated it with lots of good information. Thank, Steve! Nwocw.org

ALMOST THE LAST WORD
Messy Metaphors or Why Editors Weep

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.

McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.

He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- July 24, 2009 - Sally Snyder – Author - “Writing for Children”**
- September 25, 2009 - Rev. Dave Claassen - “Saying It in Essays”**
- October 10, 2009 - Seminar – Dennis Hensley**

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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 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