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THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

March 2010

“BOOK SIGNINGS AND SELF-PROMOTION DONE RIGHT”

March 26, 2010 – 10 a.m.

**Dayspring Church – Assembly of God
17360 N. Dixie Highway (Rt.25)
(just north of Bowling Green)**

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

Come and hear **SHELBY HENRY**, Sales Manager at Borders Books, who will give us ideas on what goes into a book signing and how to go about having one at Borders. She'll give us suggestions on how to sell books when you're the featured author of the day at Borders and valuable tips on self-promotion in general. Even if you aren't writing a book at present, you never know what the future holds, and it's always good to have as much information as you can soak up. No matter what you're writing, you always have to know how to sell your work and yourself effectively.

**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 September. 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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WRITERS' CONFERENCES ARE GOOD FOR YOU!

As member **Shelley Lee** talked about her last summer's experience at the Greater Philadelphia Writer's Conference, her enthusiasm was definitely catching. She highly recommended attending conferences for their professional and informative workshops, networking with other writers, and the feeling of encouragement that buoys your spirits long after you're home.
you.

She shared some tips for becoming a successful writer that she picked up at the conference.

- Rise to the challenge
- Understand and practice the pain of discipline
- Combine persistence with perseverance
- Be willing to learn from every possible resource
- Embrace partnerships with editors and other professionals.
- Know the power of information - from different contacts.
- Realize the importance of networking
- Constantly look for the next opportunity to practice your writing

She felt the whole experience was a great learning experience on how to jumpstart your publishing dream with the opportunities to meet editors, authors, publishers, and agents at the various workshops on many topics. Attending a workshop on Web Marketing brought her new insights into managing her own site and blogs, she said, and emphasized that a serious writer needs to embrace all the technology out there... including a Web site, blog, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. All can be basic marketing tools for marketing your writing.

Be sure to visit Shelley's own entertaining Web site and blog...
www.shelleylee.blogspot.com/

AND SPEAKING OF SHELLEY.....SHE IS OUR NEW PRESIDENT!

We thank her for taking on the responsibility and are certainly looking forward to having her as our new leader. Other officers stay the same.

AND a great big thank you to Kathy Douglas who has tirelessly worked with great energy the last two years to keep our group viable and interesting so that we can all pursue our Christian writing with the encouragement and information we need.

A great job, Kathy! Stay with us!

SEMINAR WILL BE ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!

Bowing to popular demand, Dr. Dennis Hensley will be back for our seminar on **October 30**, bringing a new program of his special brand of humor, Christian dedication, and just plain good information. More



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details coming in the next newsletter. You won't want to miss him this time!

ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT IN THE WORKS

Mark your calendars for our annual Spring Retreat coming up on **April 30 and May 1**. It will be again held at the beautiful Lial Retreat Center at Whitehouse, OH...and those of you who attended last year know what treats this facility has in store. So you won't want to miss it this year. Plans have been made for an entertaining and informative two days, with plenty of time for writing and enjoying the lovely grounds.

The fun begins at 9 a.m. Friday morning with check-in and ends at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The fee, which includes meals, is \$40, but in a change by the facility from last year, accommodations will be extra. If you want to stay over Friday night, the fee will be \$40 per room for singles, \$50 for couples. We ask that you bring a snack to share, plus any drink you may want. Coffee and tea is furnished.

Reservations, which will be limited to 20, are due by **April 22**, and can either be given to **Mary Jo Bosch** at the March 26 meeting, or sent to her at **2840 Bradner, Millbury, OH 43447**. If you plan to stay overnight, please indicate if you want a first or second floor room.

(Did you see Kathy D's short article about last year's retreat in the February issue of the *Christian Communicator*?)

STILL LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

We'd like to feature one of our members in each issue of our newsletter. If you'd like to submit a piece, just email to me. First come, first published. Please limit your word count to 125 words. We're waiting.....

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.

- **WHITE ROSE PUBLISHING** is looking for “entertaining Christian romances.” Check it out at www.whiterosepublishing.com



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- The new **CHRISTIAN WRITERS' MARKET GUIDE** is out. Be sure to order your copy of this valuable resource.
- **ST. DAVIDS CHRISTIAN WRITERS' CONFERENCE – June 22-26**
Grove City College, Grove City, PA. More information – www.stdavidswriters.com
- **ACW(American Christian Writers)** hosts free seminars in churches to “help church attendees learn how to develop a ministry of writing”. A church in the Toledo area is giving consideration to hosting such a seminar. We’ll keep you posted on developments.
- **AN AREA EVENT:** Two children’s author/artists will be appearing at the University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum which is devoted to literacy and the art of children’s picture books. Diane DeGroat will be at the museum on March 14 at 2 p.m. – fee, \$5.00. Michael Rosen will appear on April 11 at 3 p.m. – free. They will be sharing their latest children’s books. Even if you’re not interested in children’s books, listening to the authors and visiting this unique museum and gift store is worth the trip. For more information check the Website – www.mazzamuseum.org or call 419-434-5521. The famous 2010 Mazza Conference, “Windows on the World” will be held July 12-16.
- **WRITER’S DIGEST 79TH ANNUAL COMPETITION** - Ten categories. Grand prize - \$3,000 and a trip to New York City to meet with editor or agents. **Deadline May 14, 2010.** Go to www.writierdigest.com and hit the competitions link for more information..
- **WRITING RAW** is a FREE literary ezine dedicated to new and emerging writers. “Our goal at Writing Raw is simple – to serve the literary community with the opportunity to have their work online and out in the world. In this world of disappearing literary magazines, Writing Raw is providing the blank pages for writers to fill.”
This is a fascinating secular site just for writers to love to write and want to be published and who love books. It’s full of book reviews, interviews with best-selling authors, and general writing helps. Give it a look!
www.WritingRaw.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



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- **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

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

Toni Wilbarger has had one of her devotions accepted by *The Upper Room* for their Jan/Feb 2011 issue.

Carol Leonard and **Betty Everett** both have articles in the March issue of *Country Living*.



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Shelley Lee and Kathy Douglas both have multiple entries in the book, *Heavenly Humor for the Dog Lover's Soul*, coming out in June.

Shelley also has an article in the February BG Living magazine about a local guy making it on American Idol.

Congratulations to all!

Keep the news coming about your successes!

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**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE...www.nwocw.org**

DUES ARE STILL DUE!

**ALMOST THE LAST WORD
(on rejection letters)**

“Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 26 – Book Signings and Self-Promotion Done Right
Shelby Henry, Borders Books**

**April 30-May 1 - Writers Retreat at Lial Center in
Whitehouse, OH**

**May 28 - The Accidental Author – writing family memoirs
Local author, Mary Helen Wright**

Send newsletter information to [andamija @ bex.net](mailto:andamija@bex.net) or to 5679 Monroe St. #109, Sylvania, OH 43560.

DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING CHURCH : The church is located a couple miles north of Bowling Green on Route 25 (North Dixie Highway). From the Toledo area take the Perrysburg exit south off I-475/23 on to Route 25. Church will be on the left. Church phone number is 419-352-0672