



Back to [www.nwocw.org](http://www.nwocw.org)



# THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

October 2008

## "ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CRITIQUING"

October 24, 2008 – 10 a.m.

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

**(See the end of the newsletter for directions)**

**This is your chance!** Bring that story, article, devotional, or book you've been writing and rewriting and wondering if it's really any good...and we'll have a morning of gentle critiquing with time to really look at your work. If we don't get to everyone's piece, we'll finish up in our regular critique session after lunch. This is the time to get the advice you need from other writers, so don't be shy. We'll look for you!

**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 September seminar that features experienced speakers who share their writing and editing expertise. Members get a price break on this

 **Back to [www.nwocw.org](http://www.nwocw.org)** 

## **2008 SEMINAR A SUCCESS**

Those who attended our NWOC 2008 Seminar all agreed it was a big success, learning lots from our speaker about writing for magazines and what editors really want. Kelly Carr, Editor of Encounter magazine for Standard Publishing, gave us valuable tips in each of her segments, ending with a stimulating critiquing session using articles received earlier from CW members.

It was good networking, good fellowship, good information, good food.....AND we'll do it again next year!

## **HEY...WE'RE ON THE INTERNET!!!**

If you haven't seen it yet, take a look at our new Website...**www.nwocw.org** .... and you'll find an extremely informative and comprehensive presentation of our group, although some of it is still "under construction" as our new Webmaster, member **Stephen Ricker** says. Our deep appreciation to Stephen who designed the site, wrote the content, and hopefully will continue as our Webmaster. **Thank you, Stephen!** (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.

## ALL ABOUT TRAVEL WRITING

If you want to do travel writing, hone your basic writing skills first. That was the first tip **Betty Winslow** shared as she talked to the group at the last meeting about her experiences in this glamorous-sounding genre.

Saying it's not as much of a great vacation as you might think, she said going on a press travel trip where you're expected to write great descriptions can be hard work. And often you have to pay some expenses yourself. You hope the articles that may come from that trip will sell enough to make up the difference.

But she has gotten to go places she wouldn't have seen otherwise, and as time goes on, the necessary networking she does bring her more and more chances to pitch her ideas to hopefully receptive editors.

For breaking into the field, she had these further tips:

- Read magazines, travel and others, and get ideas.
- From those ideas make notes...get pictures. A destination is not a story. Think of a new angle, like why would readers be interested in going there. But don't bother to send off a description of your latest vacation.
- Network public relations firms, travel bureaus, and tourism boards. (She got several press trips from these avenues).
- Have "Travel Writer" cards made up and pass them out on trips to other writers and editors.

She warned that it's not a good way to make a living. The pay is lower scale, the competition fierce, but it a great way to see the country...and once your name is known, the assignments start to come in.

## 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 next year!

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**INDIANAPOLIS CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE – November 7 & 8, 2008.** Registration \$119. Workshops, editors, authors. For more information go to [www.wesleyan.org/writer](http://www.wesleyan.org/writer) (Several of our members are going. Contact Kathy Douglas if you're interested)

- **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](http://www.thefirstline.com)

• **FROM CROSS AND QUILL:**

**Fresh Air Books** ([freshairbooks.org](http://freshairbooks.org)) is a new imprint of Upper Room Ministries you may want to check out.

**Warner Press** ([warnerpress.com](http://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*.

**THE AMY FOUNDATION WRITING AWARDS** is now accepting submissions for their annual contest "recognizing creative, skillful writers who include scriptural truth in articles appearing in mainstream media. First prize is \$10,000! Visit the Website for updated rules – [www.amyfound.org](http://www.amyfound.org)

**CUP OF COMFORT** – looking for true stories and poems about your experiences in college – written by college students, or by graduates

about their college years. Want them written in the first person of no more than 1200 words.

**Deadline is December 31, 2008.**

*A Second Cup of Comfort for Dog Lovers* – **Deadline December 15, 2**

*A Cup of Comfort for the Grieving Heart* - **Deadline February 1, 2009**

Send submissions to [www.chickensoupforthesoul.com/form.asp?cid=submit\\_story](http://www.chickensoupforthesoul.com/form.asp?cid=submit_story)

<http://www.cupofcomfort.com/share.htm>

## ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

**CAPSTONE FICTION** – a new inspirational fiction publishing house, just listed in the 2008 Christian Writers' Market Guide. Check it out [www.capstonefiction.com](http://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](http://www.christianstoryteller.com)

**INTERESTING AND INCREDIBLY VARIED WEBSITE** of writing helps, book recommendations, articles, contests, publishing news, and Christian inspiration. [www.aprilboyer.com](http://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](http://www.cwim.com)

Poet's Market – [www.poetsmarket.com](http://www.poetsmarket.com)

Guide to Literary Agents – [www.guidetoliteraryagents.com](http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com)

Novel & Short Story Writers Market – [www.novelandshortstory.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.christianwritersguild.com)

## MEMBERS' MEMOS

Our many thoughts and fervent prayers go out to **Betty Everett** and her husband Horace, as he battles a serious illness.

**Kristina Nelson**, who, we're glad to report, is moving back into the area after a year or two in Michigan, is writing articles on [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com). Her online name is "writeitout", so you can go to the web site, type in her online name and her articles will come up.

**Betty Winslow** recently had an article published in the online *Ohio Traveler* about Lake Erie lighthouses. She said the editor was so pleased with her work that he paid her a bonus! Look for it in the September issue on [www.ohiotraveler.com](http://www.ohiotraveler.com)

Congratulations to **Denise Shumway**, whose book, *Power Prayers for Teachers*, has been published by Barbour Publishing and is now out for us all to see. She just may have a copy or two at the next meeting.

Out-of-state member **Bev Schwind** reports her new book, *Blackberry Jetboy*, is out and doing well. It's a story of love, forgiveness, and hope involving a foster child and a horse and can be found on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

**Kathy Douglas** is one of the contributing authors to Barbour Publishing's newest devotional, *365 daily whispers of Wisdom for Busy Women*.

**And for all members - Our in-between-meeting luncheons at Panera's are fun and informative. Watch for the announcement of the one in November when we'll have our year-end informal wrap-up. Come join us!**

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

## DO YOU HEAR VOICES?

As writers, we're prone to hearing voices – sometimes a chorus of them. We strain to hear the true and natural voices of our characters and our narrators. We wait for our deepest unconscious to talk to us in whatever way it does. And at some point in the process, we invite in response from trusted readers – a fellow writer, or teacher, or editor – and their voices help us see where we are with our stories, and where we need to go.

There are also voices that aren't helpful at all, just plenty loud and persistent: the internal censor, the distracter, the voice that's always there with the perfect taunt. *You will never write this story; it isn't worth writing anyway; you will never get it published; if you do it won't be successful and you'll never be able to write the next one.....*The variations are endless. It's the mean voice that adapts itself perfectly to jiggle our worst next fear.

Let's listen to the voices that serve our stories. Ask/tell the others to be quiet; and if they won't, then make a deal; we will listen to them *after* we have sat down at our desk and worked on our stories for a chunk of time. Let's cultivate a discipline that reduces the clatter of voices that undermine what really matters; writing the best stories we possibly can.

- Carolyn Coman – Newberry Honor Novelist

## **ALMOST THE LAST WORD**

**Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.**

**Take your work seriously, but not yourself**

**Talk less; listen more. Let God get a word in edgewise**

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**October 24, 2008- “ All You Wanted to Know About Critiquing”**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you have questions or need more information about our group, again contact President Kathy Douglas – 419—867-0805 - [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**

 **Back to [www.nwocw.org](http://www.nwocw.org)** 