

THE Penn Writer

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Tips for Successful Beginnings as a Writer

by Deanna Adams, Area 1

So you're sitting at the keyboard ready to let the words flow. You're inspired by a book you've just read or movie you can't get out of your head, and you decide this is it. It's time to get down to business. After all, you want to write stories too (be it fiction or nonfiction)

and have carved out the time in your busy schedule to do just that. But now all your insecurities (can I really do this?) and creative decisions (grammar issues, word choices, beginnings, middles and endings, OH MY!) have surfaced

like one colossal zit on the morning of your prom. You suddenly realize that time management was not your only obstacle. Just thinking about what all goes into an article or story can indeed be overwhelming.

When I first became a professional writer, I had more story ideas than I knew what to do with. So like the 12-step program in AA, I took it one day, one passage, at a time. And slowly, painstakingly, I acquired some wisdom on my journey along that unpaved road. And while that road was at times laced with pot holes, littered with orange barrels and had its share of red lights (rejections!), it ultimately led to a smoother highway. Here are some short-cuts so that you may experience a somewhat less bumpy road to writing success:

Left Brain, Right Brain

How many times have you heard that creative people are more right-brained? That artists and writers use the side (hemisphere) of the brain that sparks imagination? While that concept may be true, better get acquainted

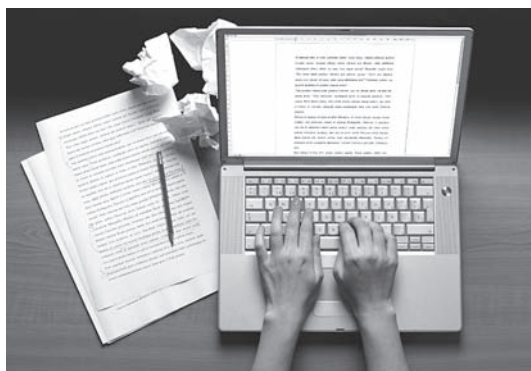
with that left side because as a writer this more analytical side is needed to edit your own work, make decisions on what works and what doesn't, and of course in getting your work published. That's the first thing I learned: You must use both sides of your brain! As you write, have your creative

"Muse" sit on your right shoulder, while your "Reader" sits on your left. So that while you're in the midst of creating, you will have your reader in mind at all times. Your reader will make you more aware to write clearly and concisely and will serve as your checklist in answering all the questions he or she may have (what, when, where, why, how, etc.).

** Special Tip:* When you're ready to edit your manuscript, print it out and read your work out loud. It's amazing how what reads well on the page sounds quite different when you hear it out loud. This step will help you improve the finished product and is essential before

See *Successful Beginnings*, Page 3

Special 2010 Conference Brochure Insert, Pages 7-14



President's Column

by Lisa Kastner, Area 6, President



I will admit with each new edition of *The Penn Writer* I struggle to begin this column. I procrastinate (ask our newsletter editor, Lori Morris) and procrastinate. I find other things to do like laundry. Or downloading music from iTunes. Or reading a short story. I diddle and dawdle. I struggle, not because Pennwriters doesn't have a lot of activities. Our Area Representatives

are always on the lookout for new opportunities to present to our members. I struggle because we have so much to share and sometimes I feel like a broken record in reporting the great offerings our organization provides.

In alignment with this edition's theme of new starts, I'm beginning the new year with a new start. A new approach to this column. I am sitting down at my laptop and I am determined to complete this before I receive the warning e-mail from Lori threatening to send the newsletter to press without my column. Okay, so maybe I've never gotten the e-mail, but if you've ever met Lori then you know how serious she is about this newsletter and how scary it is if you haven't fulfilled your commitment to complete a column. Think Jaws. She would be the shark; you would be lunch or a light snack depending on her mood.

In all honesty, the real meat and potatoes of this newsletter doesn't come from this standing column, but from the wonderful article contributions provided by various members. Our incredibly eclectic mix of talents, which makes Pennwriters a great venue for the novice to the

The theme of this issue of *The Penn Writer* is "A Fresh Start." The theme for the next issue is "Plotting Along." We also welcome material not related to theme. Send submissions and member accomplishments to Editor Lori Morris at lorimorris@verizon.net. Please put PW or Pennwriters in the subject line.

Have you changed your address or e-mail address? If so, please notify Dave Szymanowski, acting PW secretary. We need your help to keep our member roster current. Thanks from the newsletter staff.

award winning and multipublished to learn and succeed in the craft of writing, is constantly coming up with current topics to submit to the newsletter.

With my new start, I have some other great new starts to convey. Nate Hardy, our coordinator of internet activities, is rebranding the online workshops and is seeking your ideas on a tagline and image to represent the online workshops. Our conference coordinator, Ayleen Stelhorn, wants to remind everyone that this year, the paper version of the conference registration will be sent as a part of *The Penn Writer* and not mailed separately. So, if you would like to register for the conference via postal mail, please hold onto this edition of *The Penn Writer* so you have the paper version of the conference registration form; otherwise you will need to register online. Also, if you are interested in forming your own Pennwriters Chapter, please contact me, Carol Silvis, or Jade Blackwater for a copy of the Chapter Guide book. We are also more than happy to provide consultation on starting a chapter.

On that note, I will end this blathering. If you have any suggestions for this column, please feel free to forward them to me or possibly send Lori recipes for how to cook the fresh catch of the day. I keep telling her that redheads will give her indigestion but she still comes a calling.

CORRECTION: Due to a printer error, the Nov.-Dec. 2009 edition of *The Penn Writer* contained errors on Page 1 and Page 20. The printer has made monetary amends. As editor, I apologize to article authors Judy Wolfmann and Ayleen Stelhorn as well as to all Pennwriters members. A correct version of the entire newsletter can be downloaded from the Pennwriters Web site at www.pennwriters.com.

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Successful Beginnings *(cont. from Page 1)*

sending any of your work out. You'll be glad you did! Trust me on that.

Preparation

Preparation starts with your own writing space where you do nothing else but write. This helps trigger the creative process. When you are at your designated writing space, your subconscious mind will kick in your creative side as you sit down at the keyboard because of that familiarity. Don't ask me how it works, but it absolutely does. You should also try to write the same time every day, another tip at training your brain that this is Writing Time.

** Special Tip:* Take notes throughout the day whenever you think of things related to your writing. (Or keep a micro-cassette or digital recorder so you can record these thoughts and ideas as they occur. Believe me, they'll often come when you're not at the computer). Once you sit down to write, bring out those notes and you'll know exactly what you want to work on. You'll never have writer's block again!

Next, make a sign that you will hang above your computer screen, next to your keyboard, or pasted somewhere on your writing desk: Today is the First Day of the Rest of My Writing Life. This will remind you to get going, that time can easily be frittered

away (do not check your e-mail during your initial writing time!). Then hang another sign that reads: "Every morning I'm handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world I get free of charge. If I had all the money in the world, I could not buy an extra hour. What will I do with this priceless gift? I must use it as it is given only once. Once I waste it, I can never get it back." If that doesn't inspire you, nothing will.

You Can Never Know Enough about the Art—and Business—of Writing

No matter how successful you become, you must keep learning. The book industry, as Pennwriters are well aware, is continually changing. But also, any writer can become stale in their work if they don't expand their creative horizons. So read, read, read. Read writers' magazines to study your craft. Read great authors to see what has made them so great. Attend writers' workshops, conferences, take classes (many community colleges offer writing classes), and join writers' organizations (like Pennwriters!). Being a part of the writing community is essential for any serious writer. This is where you'll bond with other writers, and may even start a writers' group, which will help you in every aspect of your career.

See Successful Beginnings, Page 4

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Contact information for Area Reps can be found in area reports within the newsletter.

Pennwriters Online: Your Internet Connection

Web site = www.Pennwriters.org

Online Courses = www.Pennwriters.org (click the "COURSES" menu button)

Yahoo Group = groups.yahoo.com/group/Pennwriters/join

LinkedIn Group = www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=67420

Facebook Group = www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9428111505

Twitter Group = www.twitter.com/Pennwriters

Area 1 Report

by David Szymanowski
Area 1 Representative

Todd Main, our capable Fellowship of the Quill group leader, is running for Area 1 Representative. He is very dedicated to assisting our members in learning the craft of writing through a fellowship of fun and creativity. He has done a superb job of developing and growing the Fellowship of the Quill Pennwriters group. I'm sure he will do likewise as Area 1 Representative.

Area 1 Writing Groups

Meadville Area:

1st Saturday of the month, Meadville Vicinity Pennwriters (MVP) meets at The Tellers Row Coffee Bar @ The Bank, 940 Park Ave, downtown, Meadville, PA. 1-4 p.m. Contact Catherine McLean: mouserun@certainty.net

Erie Area:

2nd Saturday of the month at The Erie Book Store, Lovell Place, 137 East 13th Street, Erie, 1-4 p.m. Contact Dave: daveszy@verizon.net

3rd Wednesday of the month at Mercy Center for Aging, 444 East Grandview Blvd, Erie, 7 p.m. Contact Jean: jjenkins@nwsd.org

4th Saturday of the month at Barnes & Noble Book Store, Rte. 19, near the Millcreek Mall, Erie, 1-4 p.m. Contact Dave: daveszy@verizon.net

Every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. the Area One Fellowship of the Quill meets at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drive, Erie. Contact: Todd Main: Todd_Main@steris.com

Shenango Valley Area:

3rd Saturday of the month at the Community Library of Shenango Valley from 1-4 p.m. Contact: mouserun@certainty.net

Contact Dave at (814) 838-6870; daveszy@verizon.net

Online Courses a Big Hit

by Nate Hardy, Area 6, Internet Activities Coordinator

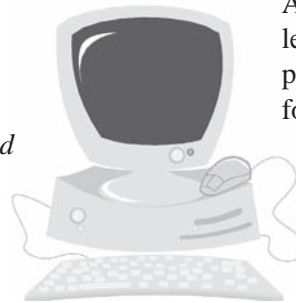
Entering its second year, Pennwriters Online Courses service has been a smashing success! It's attracted almost as many customers as our annual Conference, including writers from Canada, Europe, and Australia! The following testimonials give you insight on why our Online Courses enjoy high satisfaction ratings, and over 60% of attendees are repeat customers:

"I've taken other courses, writing and otherwise, and most ask for an evaluation at the end. This is the only one I can think of that I have given the HIGHEST marks to for all the questions. Compliments to all involved." —Customer from PA

"Your methods work." —Customer from Canada

"Good information about maintaining interest in the middle, using secondary plots, and about how to end the novel." —Customer from Washington

"I enjoyed the course—it was my first online one." —Customer from PA



Give a special thanks to our past instructors for their remarkable work in making the Pennwriters Online Courses a success: Nate Hardy, Lisa Kastner, Nancy Martin, and Catherine McLean. The courses service has been newly improved, better than ever for 2010.

The Internet is the future for writers. And we must always be open to learn more about our craft and the publishing market. We make it easy for you to do so between conferences.

Pennwriters Online Courses are open to non-members and members throughout the year. Members receive 10-20% discounts. You'll love the convenience and flexibility of attending workshops from the safety and comfort of your home or any computer—at times that fit your schedule.

Sign up for a Pennwriters Online Course today! And tell a friend. You're virtually guaranteed to learn something new and get results from our proven instructors. It's easy. Simply visit our Web site at www.Pennwriters.org and click on the "COURSES" menu button. See you in class!

Successful Beginnings (cont. from Page 3)

Staunch Supporters

One of the great things about writers is that, unlike some professions, most are not competitive. Writers are the most supportive people I've ever met. They help you with your work, offer support and encouragement (maybe even a tissue or two) after an editor's rejection, and will most assuredly be the first ones in line at your book signings.

When it comes to being a writer, the beginning is merely a prelude (or

rather, prologue) to a happy, definitely interesting, journey on the road to a wonderful writing life.

Deanna R. Adams is a freelance writer and award-winning essayist. Her books include "Rock 'n' Roll and the Cleveland Connection" (Kent State University Press, 2002), "Confessions of a Not-So-Good Catholic Girl" (Infinity Publishing, 2008) and "Cleveland's Rock and Roll Roots" (Arcadia Publishing, 2010). She is an instructor at Lakeland Community College, and is director of two writer conferences. Visit her Web site at www.deannaadams.com.

My Latest Fresh Start

by Norma Huss, Area 5

It seems like I've been writing the same manuscripts forever, but I must make a new start. Since I've sold YESTERDAY'S BODY, I have to think of what comes next. A sequel, of course! I've tried sequels before, but somehow, they've all changed into something else.

The first time I tried a sequel to YESTERDAY'S BODY, instead of continuing Jo's story, it morphed into a new beginning—of Cyd's story. With that one completed, I tried to write a sequel to Cyd's story. It just wouldn't stay connected. That manuscript took flight and claimed the number one spot, leaving the original first manuscript (which was supposed to be Jo's second adventure) to founder. So what makes me think I can successfully pen a sequel?

Well, you've got to admit, an actual published book has a certain authority. One can't waffle around. One must

persevere. Already, I have a title, and believe me, that's one of my worst downfalls! But even better, I've grazed upon the best Pennwriters has to offer. I took Susan Meier's all-day precon class. I've dipped into countless workshops. I've accepted Pennwriters snail-mail and in-person critiques (and given my share). Just recently, I took Emily Brightwell's on-line Cozy Class with excellent insights on how she plots her Mrs. Jeffries series. Now, I have a very rough plot to transfer into finished prose. And, I'd better hurry up. Don't most mystery writers churn out a new volume annually?

See me next year. I'll give you a heads-up on my Web site, www.normahuss.com And the whole process is one you can emulate as easily as accepting all that Pennwriters has to offer.

Come to think of it, putting together that Web site (with a lot of help) was definitely a fresh start!

Did you know you can order many of our Published Penwriter books right from our Web site? From the menu bar, click Published/Our Books and you will see our store. Click the categories to see different authors and books. Pennwriters receives a small kickback on purchases made in this store. Thanks for your patronage!

QUOTES CORNER

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

"With the pride of the artist, you must blow against the walls of every power that exists the small trumpet of your defiance."

— Norman Mailer

Compliments of Nate Hardy and www.AIRequation.org. For weekly quotes, visit the Pennwriters online group at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/pennwriters

Area 2 Report

by Katie Yelinek

Area 2 Representative

Happy New Year! I assume that all of you are still hard at work on your writing resolutions for the new year. If you've slipped a little, don't worry. Now is the time to reassess and to reaffirm or alter your resolutions. If you need to aim for a more modest word count goal or to target smaller publications, that's okay. The important thing is to keep at it.

Part of your goal may be to connect more with other writers. Remember that Area 2 has a number of writers groups. There are groups in Danville, Wilkes-Barre, Montrose, and Tunkhannock. Please join us. If no group is available near you and you want to start one, contact me or consider becoming a Pennwriters Round Robin critique partner.

Contact Katie at 570-784-2112;
kyelinek@hotmail.com

Area 4 Report

by Mona Papoutsis

Area 4 Representative

The Chambersburg writers group continues to be one of only three Critique Groups in Area 4, but we'd like to see an interest in other areas. If you have any ideas to share with other members on starting a group, or any other inputs, that news is always welcome too – please share. In addition to critiquing, a critique group is also a great way to socialize and get to know others with similar interests.

If there is anyone who is interested in starting a Critique Group in your area, please let me know. You may reach me at 717-263-1109 or monap2005@comcast.net. Or, if you're within driving distance and have the time, please join us. We continue to meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 in the evening. We meet at Wilson College.

Contact Mona at 717-263-1109;
monap2005@comcast.net

Journaling to Great Writing

by Catherine E. McLean, Area 1, Round Robin Coordinator

Sol Stein said: “A writer is someone who cannot not write.” Yet, what few people realize is that one of the best ways to start a writing career is to become a “journalist.” No, not the type of person who writes for a newspaper or magazine, but a person who writes in a journal. However, that journal isn’t a personal diary of daily life. That journal is reserved for a cornucopia of story possibilities.

It doesn’t matter if that journal is a leather-bound book, a plastic, three-ring binder, index cards or slips of paper kept in a shoe box, or a nondescript composition notebook. It doesn’t matter if that journal is a PDA file or a computer file, or the tapes in a mini-recorder. What matters is that the writer’s passion and the emotions evoked by ideas, peculiar words, one-liners, quotes, and observations of people and life—or the pondering of anything that piques curiosity, touches the heart, or makes one search another’s soul—is recorded into that story journal.

For many fiction writers, the thrill—or lament—of words on a page digs deep into the human condition. After all, journaling is a way to dissect people’s intentions, sort out morals and ethics, sin and sainthood. Journal entries can examine people’s attitudes, their manners, their way of dressing and accessorizing. Then those real-life traits, quirks, and habits can be used to bring a story character to life on the page of a novel or a short story.

Some journal entries include snatches of overheard conversations in restaurants, at bus stops, or from an aisle of the local mega-mart. Even overhearing a one-sided cell phone conversation can lead a writer into journaling to make sense of those real bits of dialogue—and the result may be tied into a great story scene.

Although most journal entries are short, often a collection of tidbits and data, the longer entries follow a curious, convoluted path that ends with a eureka moment of insight, or a truth revealed. Some may be written

by the characters in the writer’s mind and end with a chuckle—or a tear—but with a better understanding of that particular character.

Other benefits of a writer’s journal include enabling a writer to deal with the writer’s life—from critiques and rejections to the dreaded writer’s block. Some entries can become essays or articles for publication, thus providing credentials—proof—that the writer has evolved into a “selling author.”

No journal entry is a waste of time or ink because writing daily, journaling, hones word and language skills. The journaling also contributes to the development of a writer’s unique “voice.”

Thus journaling is a valuable, versatile tool and a treasure-trove for the “journalist”—who one day becomes the writer who cannot not write.

Catherine is a Published Penn and writing workshop instructor. Currently she is the Pennwriters Round Robin Coordinator. Her Web site is: www.WritersCheatSheets.com

Vote on Change of Bylaws

Proposal for bylaws regarding the Board of Directors membership:

4.1 The Board of Directors shall be composed of: 1) the officers of the Organization; 2) the Area Representatives; 3) the Pennwriters Newsletter Editor; 4) the Conference Coordinator; and 5) the Coordinator of Internet Activities.

6.1 Pennwriters membership shall be divided into areas to provide sufficient representation and each area shall be

recognized by the Board of Directors. Areas are invited to hold meetings, sponsor events, and plan programs.

6.4 It will be the duty of the Coordinator of Areas to serve as a member of the Board; to coordinate and facilitate cooperation and interaction between areas and Area Representatives; to act as the common “voice” of the Area Representatives when a unified action is desired at the Board level; and to report for any Area

Representative not able to attend a Board meeting.

Below is a ballot for the revisions of the Pennwriters bylaws. Please indicate your vote for or against adopting these changes. Then detach the ballot portion, place it in an envelope and return it to your area representative or mail it to the Bylaws Chair by Feb. 15, 2010. Address it to Jean Jenkins, 10267 Northpark Drive, Lake City, PA 16423.

Bylaws Change Ballot – Board of Directors Membership

_____ I approve bylaws 4.1, 6.1 and 6.4. _____ I do NOT approve bylaws 4.1, 6.1 and 6.4.



Friday Keynote
James Rollins
Adventure thriller author,
HarperCollins
www.jamesrollins.com



PHOTO BY JOHN PANKRAZ

Saturday Keynote
Elizabeth Kann
Children's book author,
HarperCollins
<http://elizabethkann.com>



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www.edenresort.com

2010 Pennwriters Conference

The Writer's Craft:
Putting It All Together
 May 14–16, 2010
 Lancaster, PA



Logo design by Diane Appelt www.appeltartservices.com

On the following pages you'll find all that Pennwriters has to offer at its 23rd annual conference. We've planned three days around the theme "The Writer's Craft: Putting It All Together" — and they're jam packed with amazing classes and opportunities for writers of all levels and genres.

To hit just a few of the highlights...

We're at a different hotel this year. The Best Western Eden Resort features gorgeous conference facilities that are just our size. And they have a wide variety of rooms available, so make sure you ask for all the details when you make your reservations. If you don't care to listen to dance music Saturday night when the prom kids are in the house, don't get a room near the courtyard. And if you'd prefer to be closer to the conference area, ask for a room on the west end.

I can't say enough about our keynote, James Rollins. He's writing fantastic stories, from single titles to series to movie novelizations to books for young readers. If you're not a fan of adventure thrillers, don't worry: Jim will be talking about being a successful writer, which is important to all of us. When you have a minute, check out his Web site. It's full of great video clips that will give you an idea of what his Friday night presentation will be like.

As far as guest agents and editors go, we're running the gamut this year with well-established names like editor Barbara Lalicki (the senior vice president of HarperCollins Children) and agents Janet Reid (FinePrint Literary) and Jennifer Jackson (Donald Maass) to some of the newer faces on the block. All eight of them will be teaching classes, critiquing pages, and hearing pitches. Spots for critiques and pitch appointments are assigned on a first-registered, first-served basis. There's a spot on the registration form to make your choices.

And one final note on our classes. We have nearly 40 this year. They are loosely grouped into categories so you can find the best matches for your writing needs. In addition to the one-hour workshops that are part of the main conference, don't miss the full- and half-day sessions the day before. Jonathan Mayberry is teaching nonfic; Tim Esaias is teaching fiction; Loree Lough has a session on plotting; and CJ Lyons will help you get your fiction query materials in order.

If you have any questions, just holler: ayleen@embarqmail.com or 717-350-4669 (cell). See you in Lancaster!

—Ayleen Stellhorn, 2010 Conference Coordinator

2010 Conference Workshops

Perfect Your Craft

Be Your Own Editor, Part 1, with Lisa D. Kastner Discover new ways to look at your fiction and creative nonfiction writing with a fresh eye and get a clear roadmap to the editing process in the first part of this two-part workshop.

Be Your Own Editor, Part 2, with Lisa D. Kastner Continue to unlock the secrets of self-editing with hands-on exercises that will help you to eliminate unneeded sentences and words and to easily analyze characters and plots.

Getting Conflict on the Page with Tim Esaias The course of a protagonist's story should never run smooth. Share ideas for putting speed bumps, puncture strips, hungry lions, and venomous mothers-in-law between your character and his or her goal.

Getting Plot on the Page with Tim Esaias Are your characters characterizing, your dialogue snapping, your word pictures wonderful, but not much else seems to be happening? Perhaps you've neglected to put your story on every page.

Hooking Your Reader with Cyn Balog Get your reader's attention with the very first sentence. A great first sentence is a challenge even for established writers, and it's one of the most important parts of a novel.

Love & Relationships: From Platonic to Lusty with Donna Fletcher Love is a driving force in all relationships and a necessity to plots. From platonic to lusty and in between, learn what it takes to define and enrich the various types for your novel.

Making Revisions, with Anita Nolan You've typed "The End" on the last page of your manuscript, but it's just the beginning. Here's a step-by-step approach on how to make sense of your next steps.

No Rules, Just Write! with CJ Lyons Join CJ as she discusses the "rules" of writing. On her list are head-hopping, genre-mixing, and backstory dump. Get the scoop on why the rules exist and when to ignore them and just write.

Say What? with Marta Perry Dialogue between characters in a book isn't nearly as freeflowing as it is in real life. Learn how each word your character says has to move

your plot along and show something about your characters.

Showing vs. Telling with Maria V. Snyder A fine line exists between the perfect amount of "showing" and the overuse of "telling" the reader. Join Maria as she shares five proven techniques to avoid telling about an event or a character's feelings.

Why They Do What They Do with Loree Lough Characters have to be strong and unique. And then they have to be motivated. Find out how to develop characters that will catch your reader's imagination and keep them involved in the story.

Write Better Beginnings with Ramona Long Strengthen the first chapter to make it appealing and intriguing not only to readers, but also to agents and editors. Ramona shares previously submitted examples in this interactive workshop.

Know the Business

Agent Panel Join agents Alex Glass, Miriam Kriss, and Jenny Bent as they take your questions on everything and anything (well, just about) that you ever wanted to know about working with agents.

Before and After with Miriam Kriss Myths surround the process of submitting to agents. Find out first-hand how manuscripts arrive on Miriam's desk, how she makes her decisions, and what happens after you get "the call."

Editor Panel Join editors Barbara Lalicki, David Pomerico, and Leis Pederson for a Q&A session about the publishing industry in general and editing in particular.

Effective Social Media with Janet Reid It's the hottest way to build a community and book sales – or is it? Hear what this agent has to say about what Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and the like can do for your writing and selling career.

Ins and Outs of Contracts with Jenny Bent Get the inside scoop from an agent who's been in the business for more than 15 years. Know what to look for in a solid book contract and what to avoid in a deal that's not so firm.

Inside Children's Publishing with Editor Barbara Lalicki Get a close look at what goes on behind the scenes with

HarperCollins Children's senior vice president and editorial director.

Tossing the Literary Dice: Why Agents Gamble on New Writers with agent Alex Glass It seems much safer for an agent to select an established author or someone with an amazing platform. What would make an agent take on a new writer/go through the slush pile?

The Publishing Labyrinth with Maria V. Snyder New to publishing? Follow Maria as she leads you through what can be a confusing maze of publishing dos and don'ts. Find out how to locate reputable agents and editors, and what to do if you make a wrong turn.

No One Ever Died Writing a Synopsis with Loree Lough Once your novel is finished, it's time to boil it all down into the dreaded synopsis. Join Loree as she presents tips and techniques to get you through what often seems like the last task you'll ever do.

Marketing Made Easy with Nate Hardy Discover new proven concepts and tactics to get maximum results from your marketing. Easily identify target markets. Increase your visibility, fans, and Web site traffic. Save promotion time and money.

Pitch Perfect with CJ Lyons Nervous about your face-to-face meeting with an agent or editor? Bring your pitch to this highly interactive workshop and polish it until it's pitch perfect! Practice your pitch and get feedback here.

Rejection—How to Make It Work for You with Jack Hillman If you're a writer, you know about rejection. But do you let rejections drag you down and stop your writing, or do you fight back and persevere? This workshop is more than a pep talk; it's an action plan.

Lights, Camera, Action with Nancy Daversa Does the thought of being interviewed for TV make you nervous? Could you talk comfortably on air about your latest book? Put your best foot forward with tips from a Philadelphia area producer.

Branch Out

Size Matters with Ramona Long Delve into the subgenres of the short story — novella, traditional short shorts, micro, flash,

Workshops (cont.)

and prose poetry. How do you write them, and just as important, how do you sell them?

Travel Writing with Don Helin Travel writing is more than just telling an audience the whys and wherefores of traveling to any given destination. Learn how to capture the unique quality of a place and find a paying outlet for your work.

Writing Graphic Novels and Comics with Jonathan Maberry The numbers of graphic novels and comics on the bookstore shelves are growing exponentially. Discover the inner workings of the exploding market and find out how to get your foot in the door.

Markets for Children's Fiction and Nonfiction with Judy Wolfman Try your hand at writing for something other than books. Judy unlocks doors to a variety of businesses that publish material for children.

Get Specific

Why YA? with Cyn Balog Ever thought of writing a novel for teens? Learn the ins and outs of crafting compelling fiction for young adults, as well as what it takes to break into this popular market.

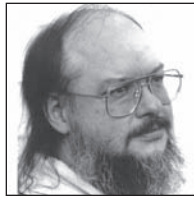
The Epic Quest with Jack Hillman From *Gone With The Wind* to *The Wizard Of Oz* to *Star Wars*... The epic quest has been a part of literature since storytelling began. Discover how to get your hero/heroine into and out of big trouble.

Putting History in Historical Fiction with Pam Jenoff Who says history has to be boring? Find out how to locate, research, and include historically accurate information that will give your novel the credibility it needs—without losing any of its appeal.

Writing Thrills with Jonathan Maberry What distinguishes thriller writing from mysteries and suspense? Discover what agents and editors in the field are looking for in this dynamic genre and get tips on sending the thrills in your WIP over the top.

Writing the Romance with Marta Perry Perhaps more so than any other genre, romance has a lot of “rules” to follow. Take a look at the various subgenres within romance and find out what you need to know to get started or move forward.

Thursday's Preconference Seminars



Fiction Writing with Timons Esaias

Who: Writers in any fiction genre who have finished first drafts of manuscripts.

What: An intensive, interactive, full-day workshop that will focus on seductive beginnings, clutter-free prose, deeper POV, more showing, less telling, satisfying story arcs, strong dialog, and dynamic scenes. Must have a finished first draft. Limited to 15 writers.

When: May 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Instructor: Tim Esaias is adjunct faculty at Seton Hill University in the Writing Popular Fiction MA program. He is a satirist, poet, and writer of short fiction, living in Pittsburgh. His poetry has been translated into Spanish, Swedish, and Chinese; and his fiction has appeared in 13 languages.



Nonfiction Writing with Jonathan Maberry

Who: Nonfiction writers who have a solid idea for a nonfiction book and want additional

direction in nonfiction writing.

What: An intensive, interactive, full-day workshop focusing on understanding the nonfiction submission process, structuring an outline, defining the competition and target audience, building your platform, putting together a proposal package, writing style, preparing to market your book, and other fine points of nonfiction writing. Must have a killer idea for a nonfiction book. Limited to 15 writers.

When: May 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Instructor: Jonathan Maberry has been a professional writer for nearly 30 years and is the author of 17 nonfiction books, several novels, including the bestselling thriller *GHOST ROAD BLUES* (Pinnacle Books), and other written works including comic books and movie novelizations.



Plotting and Subplotting with Loree Lough

Who: Serious fiction writers who want to learn more about plotting and subplotting.

What: An intensive, interactive, half-day workshop focusing on methods of plotting, the importance of plot points, story arcs and three-part acts, including a subplot, what an editor/agent looks for in a plot. Must have an idea for a fiction book. No class limit.

When: May 13, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch at noon

Instructor: Loree Lough has more than 64 books, more than 59 short stories, and more than 2,200 articles published. Her stories have earned dozens of industry and readers' choice awards. She develops and teaches writing courses at her studio in Maryland. www.loreelough.com



Crafting Your Fiction Query Package with CJ Lyons

Who: Fiction writers in any genre who have a finished first draft of a novel

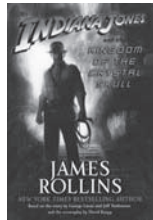
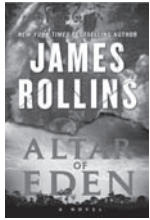
and want to focus on the skills they'll need to get their work noticed by an agent or editor.

What: An intensive, interactive, half-day workshop that will give you the chance to have your query letter critiqued, practice your pitch, fine-tune your high concept, develop your opening hook, and learn step-by-step how to write a synopsis (both short and long). Must have a finished first draft. Limited to 16 writers.

When: May 13, 9 a.m. to noon

Instructor: As a pediatric ER doctor, CJ Lyons lived the life she wrote about in *LIFELINES*, *WARNING SIGNS*, and *URGENT CARE* (Berkley), three fast-paced medical thrillers. CJ is a nationally known presenter and keynote speaker. www.cjlyons.com

To apply: Visit www.pennwriters.com > Conference > PreCon Seminars or contact Ayleen Stellhorn (ayleen@embarqmail.com; 717-350-4669) for application instructions. Registration materials must be received between Jan. 11 and Feb. 11. Writers will be chosen by the instructors to participate in this workshop. If you are chosen to participate, you'll be asked to submit additional materials plus the workshop fee (full day: \$125 for members; \$150 for nonmembers / half day: \$65 for members; \$90 for nonmembers).



Friday Dinner Keynote

James Rollins is the author of six thrillers in the bestselling Sigma Force series, the blockbuster movie novelization, *INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL*; and six individual adventure thrillers. Rollins is also writing the Jake Ransom series for kids and adults. The first volume, *JAKE RANSOM AND THE SKULL KING'S SHADOW*, is in bookstores now, and the next release, *JAKE RANSOM AND THE HOWLING SPHINX*, is due in Spring 2010. Visit www.jamesrollins.com



Saturday Lunch Keynote

Elizabeth Kann is the co-author of the *New York Times* bestselling children's picture books *PINKALICIOUS* (HarperCollins) and *PURPLICIOUS* (HarperCollins). She co-wrote "Pinkalicious The Musical" which has been on tour and playing in New York City since 2007. Her personal essays have appeared in a variety of publications including the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, the *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL* and *CHOCOLATE FOR THE SOUL* series. Visit her online at <http://elizabethkann.com>.

Workshops (cont.)

From Idea to Children's Book, with Judy Wolfman How does a children's book go from concept to finished product? Follow the whole process, from the initial query, proposal, and agreements through the editorial process and delivery.

Writing Horror, SciFi, and Fantasy, with Editor David Pomerico What defines these genres? What trends are publishers seeing? And what's the best advice for breaking in? David shares his publishing experience and answers your questions.

Workshop Presenters

Anita Nolan wrote a historical fiction chapter book (*Homecourt*) plus annotations for Best Books for Children and numerous magazine articles. She is the executive editor of *Sprouts* magazine. www.anitanolan.com

As a pediatric ER doctor, **CJ Lyons** lived the life she wrote about in *LIFELINES*, *WARNING SIGNS*, and *URGENT CARE* (Berkley), three fast-paced medical thrillers. CJ is a nationally known presenter and keynote speaker. www.cjlyons.com

Donna Fletcher sold her first romance book to Kensington. She went on to write for Berkley and is now with Avon. She has written 18 novels to date, series and single titles, alike. <http://donnaletcher.com>.

Cyn Balog authors young adult paranormal novels. *FAIRY TALE* and *SLEEPLESS* (Delacorte) will be followed by an as-of-yet-untitled book in 2011. Cyn loves sharing her books with an audience that isn't related to her by blood. www.cynbalog.com

Don Helin's first novel, *THY KINGDOM COME* (Medallion), was published in 2009. Don's career in the Army and then as a lobbyist for industry in Washington DC gives him plenty of thriller-related material to write about. www.donhelin.com

Jack Hillman has been published in multiple magazines and won a Keystone Press Award for his investigative newspaper. He wrote two young adult fantasies, *THERE ARE GIANTS IN THIS VALLEY* and *GIANTS WANT THE LOST RIVER* (ArcheBooks). www.jackhillman.com

Jonathan Maberry writes comics for Marvel and a variety of projects involving Wolverine, Spider-Man, the Punisher and other heroes. He has written a number of novels and nonfictions books, including *PATIENT ZERO* (St. Martins). www.jonathanmaberry.com

Judy Wolfman is an elementary teacher who created stories based on the facts and concepts she wanted to teach. Her publishing credits include a ten-book *LIFE ON A FARM* series (Carolrhoda) and articles, fingerplays, and poems for regional and national magazines.

Lisa D. Kastner is president of Pennwriters and founder of the Running Wild Writers Community. She is a published fiction writer, former journalist, and a former features editor. www.lisadianekastner.blogspot.com

Loree Lough has 79 books, 63 short stories, and more than 2,500 articles in print. A frequent guest speaker, she has encouraged thousands with her learned-the-hard-way lessons about the craft and the industry. www.loreelough.com

Maria V. Snyder wrote the *MAGIC STUDY* and *STORM GLASS* (Mira) fantasy series. She is also expecting the release of *STORM WATCHER*, a middle grade reader, and a book for young adults, *INSIDE OUT*. www.mariavsnnyder.com

Marta Perry (Martha Johnson) writes inspirational romance for Steeple Hill. Her new Pleasant Valley Amish series, starting with *LEAH'S CHOICE*, will be published through Berkley Trade. www.martaperry.com

Nancy Bialy Daversa is an executive television producer, published author, college lecturer, and consultant for television and movies. She developed a soap opera and a number of murder mysteries.

Nate Hardy is the founder of Plus Sign Business & Life Coaching. He is a former *Tribune* journalist, a published writer of over 100 fiction and nonfiction works, and PW Chair of Internet Activities. www.plussignproductions.org

Pam Jenoff is the author of international bestsellers *THE KOMMANDANT'S GIRL*, *THE DIPLOMAT'S WIFE*, and *ALMOST HOME*. She served as special assistant to the secretary of the Army and is now employed as an attorney in Philadelphia.

Ramona DeFelice Long's short stories and nonfiction have appeared in juvenile and literary publications. She is a professional writing coach specializing in mysteries and short stories.

Timons Esaias's short stories range from literary to genre. He has over one hundred poems in print and is adjunct faculty at Seton Hill University in the Writing Popular Fiction MFA Program. <http://timonsesaias.com>

Guest Agents and Editors



Miriam Kriss (www.irenegoodman.com)

Miriam joined the Irene Goodman Literary Agency just as she was finishing her master's degree in Fine Arts at New York University in early 2004. She focuses on commercial fiction and represents everything from hardcover historical mysteries to all subgenres of romance, from young adult fiction to kick ass urban

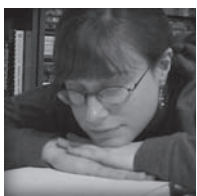
fantasies, and everything in between. If it's fun to read, she probably represents it. She doesn't look for specific stories, focusing instead on finding a voice she can fall in love with and champion.



Alex Glass (www.tridentmediagroup.com)

Alex came to Trident as Chairman Robert Gottlieb's assistant in 2001 and was promoted to literary agent shortly thereafter. He has a BA in political science from Johns Hopkins and an MFA in creative writing from American University, and has worked in the literature program at the National Endowment for the

Arts and in the marketing department of the Putnam Berkley Publishing Group. Alex's books have been sold to the movies, television, and to foreign publishers around the world. He is currently looking for debut literary fiction, crime fiction and literary thrillers, middle grade and young adult fiction, and pop culture, humor, and narrative nonfiction.



Jennifer Jackson (www.maassagency.com)

Jennifer Jackson joined the Donald Maass Literary Agency of New York City in 1993. She grew up reading science fiction and fantasy, and initially concentrated her endeavors in that field. She continued by pioneering the expansion of the agency into the areas of romance and women's fiction, and is also developing her

list in the mystery and suspense genres, as well as YA. Her current roster includes New York Times best-selling fantasy writer Jim Butcher, science fiction author Elizabeth Bear, USA Today best-selling author Anne Bishop, Derringer-Award nominee C.M. Chan, and award-winning author Jo Ann Ferguson. Previously, she worked as a bookseller for Waldenbooks, and also for Forbidden Planet, the retail division of London's Titan Books.

Janet Reid (<http://jetreidliterary.com>)

Janet Reid specializes in compelling fiction, particularly crime fiction; and narrative non-fiction. She's always on the lookout for fabulous projects. Her publishing background includes fifteen years in book publicity with clients both famous and infamous. She is actively looking for projects that show mastery of craft and originality. Janet is a member of the literary agents professional

About Our Pitch Sessions

Pitch sessions are offered at no extra charge on a first-registered, first-assigned basis. Availability is limited. Please make your first, second, and third choices on the registration form. An appointment time will be e-mailed to you prior to the conference. Writers pitching fiction must have a finished manuscript but do not need to bring it to the pitch session. For more information, visit www.pennwriters.com.

association AAR, as well as a past board member of the NYC chapter of the Women's National Book Association. She's an associate member of Mystery Writers of America and International Thriller Writers. She keeps a blog with information about clients, answering questions about publishing and query letters, and other things that strike her interest at jetreidliterary.blogspot.com. Information for new authors is also available at jetreidliterary.com

Jenny Bent (www.thebentagency.com)

For the past 15 years, Jenny has made a practice of making bestsellers—either by spotting new talent or developing careers for multi-published authors. Her list includes commercial fiction and nonfiction, literary fiction and memoir. She earned her degree from Cambridge University in England. After graduation from Cambridge University, she worked in magazines, bookselling, and agenting, most recently at Trident Media Group. She founded The Bent Agency earlier this year. Jenny is not looking for the following: science fiction, poetry, picture books, textbooks/academic books, serious history or biography political science/policy, business, reference, or sports.



Barbara Lalicki (www.harpercollinschildrens.com)

Barbara Lalicki was lucky enough to get a job as "assistant to the editor" when she graduated from SUNY Stony Brook decades ago, and she's been in the field ever since. She's a long-time fan of adventure fiction, having loved LOST ON A MOUNTAIN IN MAINE as a kid, and

later editing Gary Paulsen's HATCHET, Tim Green's FOOTBALL GENIUS, and James Rollins' thrilling JAKE RANSOM books. At HarperCollins Children's Books, where she is senior vice president and editorial director, she specializes in tween fiction—books for the 8-12 or 10-14 year-old reader. Other authors she has worked with include Beverly Cleary and Dan Gutman.



David Pomerico (www.randomhouse.com/bantamdell/spectra)

David is an Assistant Editor at Del Rey Spectra where he focuses primarily on traditional fantasy, dark fantasy, urban and contemporary fantasy, dystopian literature, near-future SF thrillers, and quirky literary fiction, as well as some nonfiction (humor and sports). He has

been at Random House for three years, starting in the Associates Program with Bantam Dell before becoming an Editorial Assistant at Spectra. He also works in the Del Rey Star Wars program. A graduate of Binghamton University, he holds Masters Degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and NYU. If you're really bored at work, you can follow him on Twitter at [@bantamspectra](https://twitter.com/bantamspectra).

Leis Pederson (<http://us.penguinroup.com/static/pages/publishers/adult/berkley.html>)

Leis is currently an Associate Editor at the Berkley Publishing Group. She acquires commercial fiction, including romance, erotic romance, urban fantasy, women's fiction, mysteries, thrillers and general fiction. Forthcoming titles include MISTRESS BY MISTAKE by Susan Gee Heino, AND FALLING, FLY by Skyler White, DON'T KILL THE MESSENGER by Eileen Rendahl, THE SILVER BEAR by Derek Haas and TOWN IN A BLUEBERRY JAM by B. B. Haywood.

General Information

Hotel

Discounted room rates are available at the Best Western Resort for \$119 a night single/double. Larger rooms are available at other discounts. Call 1-866-801-6430 or go to www.edenresort.com to make reservations online. The hotel offers a free shuttle from the Lancaster Amtrak station. Rooms feature flat screen TVs, complimentary Internet access, coffee pots, refrigerators, hair dryers, and irons. The hotel has an indoor pool, on site restaurant, public computers with Internet access, and a business center. It is located just off US Rt. 30, 5 minutes north of center city Lancaster.

Great Opportunities

Networking Lunch: Sign up for a loaded deli buffet with seating by genre. You'll get a chance to meet and ask questions of other writers in your genre. Don't forget to bring business cards with your contact info. (Fee; sign up on registration form.)

Read & Critiques: Get feedback from agents, editors, and published authors on your ½ page synopsis and first two pages. Spots are limited and offered on a first-registered, first-assigned basis. (No fee; choose genre on registration form.)

Contest for Published Penns: Drop a copy of your published book at the registration table by 9 a.m. Saturday morning. TV producer Nancy Daversa will offer a free televised interview to one author. What a great way to get some in-front-of-the-camera experience. (No fee.)

Photographs: Need a professional shot for your Web site or book jacket? We're working with a local photographer who will be available to take head shots during the conference. Watch for more information at www.pennwriters.com.

Special Events

Villains and Heroes—A Saturday Night Masquerade: Are you a fan of Poe? Loved Pippi Longstocking as a kid? Can't get enough of Indiana Jones? Dress as your favorite author or character and join us for an evening of live acoustic music, a cash bar, and an

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

May 13

Preconference Seminars

- 9-am – 4 pm Fiction Writing with Tim Esaias
9-am – 4 pm Nonfiction Writing with Jonathan Maberry
9-am – noon Fiction Query Packages with CJ Lyons
1-pm – 4 pm Plotting and Subplotting with Loree Lough

May 14 Conference Day One

- 8 am Registration opens
9:15-10:15 am Workshops
10:30-11:30 am Workshops
noon-1 pm Networking Lunch
noon-2 pm Published Author's Retreat
1:30-2:30 Workshops
2:30-3:30 Workshops
5:00 Dinner with James Rollins
8:00 Read and Critiques

May 15 Conference Day Two

- 8 am Pennwriters Breakfast
9:15-10:15 am Workshops
10:30-11:30 am Workshops
noon-1 pm Lunch with Elizabeth Kann
1:30-2:30 Workshops
2:30-3:30 Workshops
3:45 Book Signing
8:00 Masquerade Party

May 16 Conference Day Three

- 8 am Buffet Breakfast
9:15-10:15 am Workshops
10:30-11:30 am Workshops
11:30-noon Closing Ceremonies

open mic for those who are "inspired" to share readings and poetry. We'll have prizes for best reading by a character/author, most original costume, easiest character to guess, and more. (Costumes optional but encouraged; \$10 cover charge; sign up on registration form.)

Published Penns Luncheon Retreat:

Liz Scheier, former Random House and Penguin editor and current director of publisher relations of ScrollMotion (makes the Iceberg e-reader for the iPhone), offers a lunch-time presentation, "Glass Half Full."

Not a Published Penn? You can reach Published Author Status by being published in book-length fiction or nonfiction, magazine or newspaper articles, short stories, poetry, or business writing. Certain restrictions

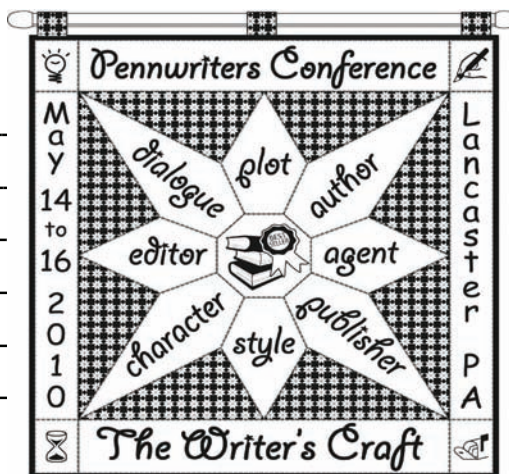
apply. Log in as a member at www.pennwriters.com, then click Published Criteria on the left. Need more information? Contact Jack Hillman at hillwtr@aol.com.

Friday Keynote Dinner: Spend an evening with adventure thriller author James Rollins, who has written single titles, series, movie novelizations, and books for independent readers. Hear about his 10-year career—how he got started, how he finds new opportunities—and what advice he has for today's writers. Q&A and book signing follows. (Fee; sign up on registration form.)

Saturday Keynote Lunch: Author and PennWriter Elizabeth Kann shares her experiences writing children's books, one of which was turned into a musical that's playing in New York City. (No fee; make menu choices on registration form.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Name (as it will appear on name tag) _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____



- Pennwriters Member, Area _____ Nonmember
- 1) Choose three-day or one-day conference option.
 - 2) Make checks payable to Pennwriters, Inc. Mail to Jackie Shaffmaster, 406 Second Street, Dalton, PA 18414. OR Register and pay online at www.pennwriters.com

May we contact you about volunteering at the conference? YES PLEASE NO THANKS

THREE-DAY CONFERENCE: Friday May 14 to Sunday May 16

Includes 30-plus workshops to choose from, read-and-critique session and agent/editor appointment (limited availability), Saturday breakfast, and Saturday keynote lunch

	MEMBER	NONMEMBER	TOTAL
Base Cost for member or nonmember	\$225	\$275	_____
Read-and-critique session (see list on back)	n/c	n/c	\$0
Agent/editor appointment (see list on back)	n/c	n/c	\$0
Saturday breakfast (choose 1)	n/c	n/c	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> Scrambled Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> French Toast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian, Chef's Choice			
Saturday lunch with Elizabeth Kahn (choose 1)	n/c	n/c	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Salad Croissant <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Wrap <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian, Chef's Choice			

Add-ons

- Friday lunch (choose 1)
- Networking Lunch..... \$22 \$25
 - All you can eat sandwich buffet with soup, fruit, and dessert
 - Published Author's Lunch..... \$27.50 ... n/a
 - Buffet lunch & special presentation from former Random House and Penguin editor Liz Scheier
 - Friday dinner w/James Rollins (choose 1) \$49 \$65
 - New York Strip Steak Grilled Chicken Chardonnay Vegetarian, Chef's Choice
 - Saturday night masquerade \$10 \$20
 - With an acoustic duet, open mic, and cash bar. Costumes encouraged but not required.
 - Sunday breakfast buffet \$25 \$27
 - With pancakes, blintzes, and an omelet station
 - Nonwriter guest of registered guest \$70 \$70

TOTAL

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE: Friday May 14 OR Saturday May 15

Includes one day of workshops and an agent/editor appointment (limited availability). Read and critiques are included for Friday attendees (limited availability); lunch included for Saturday attendees.

	MEMBER	NONMEMBER	TOTAL
Base Cost for member or nonmember.....	\$144	\$194	_____
FRIDAY Read-and-critique session (see list below).....	\$0	\$0	_____ \$0
FRIDAY/SATURDAY Agent/editor appointment (see list below)	\$0	\$0	_____ \$0
Add-ons			
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY Networking Lunch.....	\$22	\$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY Published Author's Lunch.....	\$27.50	N/A	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY dinner with James Rollins (choose 1).....	\$49	\$65	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> New York Strip Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Chicken Chardonnay <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian, Chef's Choice			
<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY lunch with Elizabeth Kann (choose 1).....	\$0	\$0	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Salad Croissant <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Wrap <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian, Chef's Choice			
<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY night masquerade	\$10	\$20	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonwriter guest of registered guest	\$70	\$70	_____
	TOTAL		_____

Notes for the conference coordinator (special accommodations, diet, etc.)

Cancellations after April 25, 2010, subject to \$50 handling fee. No refunds after May 14, 2010.
 Returned check fee \$25. Registration deadline April 25, 2010; after 4/25/10, add \$50.
 Contact Ayleen Stellhorn, conference coordinator, with questions: ayleen@embarqmail.com or 717-350-4669.

Read and Critique Sessions (three-day conference attendees and Friday conference attendees, choose one; limited availability, first come-first registered; NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE!)

- Mystery SciFi/Fan/Horror Nonfiction Thriller/Suspense
- Children's/YA Literary Romance

Agent/Editor Appointments (limited availability; NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE!) You should have a completed manuscript before making an appointment, which will be assigned on a first-come, first-registered basis. Mark your 1st and 2nd choices. The time and location of your appointment will be e-mailed to you.

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|--|--|
| __ Barbara Lalicki, HarperCollins Children | __ Janet Reid, Fine Print Literary |
| __ David Pomerico, Bantam Spectra | __ Jenny Bent, The Bent Agency |
| __ Leis Pederson, Berkley | __ Miriam Kriss, Irene Goodman Literary Agency |
| | __ Alex Glass, Trident Media |
| | __ Jennifer Jackson, Donald Maass |

Win \$100 in Our Slogan Contest!

by Nate Hardy, Area 6, Internet Activities Coordinator

We're running a contest for a NEW slogan for the Pennwriters' Online Courses! It's part of an effort to take the service to new heights for 2010. The current slogan "EASY EDUCATION. PROVEN RESULTS" is featured along with the accompanying graphic/picture on this page and at the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/PennwritersOnlineCourses>

The winner will receive \$100, to be applied to any Pennwriters Online Course in 2010. Contest deadline is 1/31/2010. The winner will be informed personally by 2/28/2010 and announced to the public through various media outlets. The winning slogan will become the property of Pennwriters.

Slogans should be no longer than seven words. (If you have ideas for

a new graphic/picture to go with the slogan, feel free to provide your ideas too.) Preference will be given to entries that speak best to students' needs: learn new information and tips, results that improve their writing careers, and knowledgeable helpful responsive instructors

The contest is open to anyone, not just Pennwriters members, so spread the word to your writer friends and post it on your Web sites. Contest entry is easy through the link above and on our Web site at www.Pennwriters.org (click on the "COURSES" menu button).

You may enter multiple slogans. In case multiple people enter the same winning

slogan, the first entry wins. For winner announcements, your phone number, street and e-mail addresses will NOT be publicized. Good luck!



Attention members!

We are updating our database and need your help. Please send your Web site addresses and blog addresses to Dave Szymanowski at daveszy@verizon.net. The information will help keep our membership database current.

Area 3 Report

by Annette Dashofy
Area 3 Representative

Mark your calendars now. Area 3 is planning a day-long workshop with Debra Dixon, author of *GOAL, MOTIVATION AND CONFLICT: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF GOOD FICTION* on Saturday, Sept. 25., 2010.

The Second Tuesday of the Month Group meets at the Barnes & Noble in North Fayette at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Meredith Cohen at mcohen61@hotmail.com.

The Pittsburgh South Hills Chapter of Pennwriters is undergoing some changes. January's meeting will be held at Panera Bread in the Galleria on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the meeting room. (Please note, this is NOT the usual meeting date.) Meeting location and dates for the rest of the year to be announced. For more information, contact me.

The Pittsburgh East Writers meets in the first floor conference room at the Monroeville Public Library on the second Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12:45. Check www.EllenSpain.com for additional information.

The Critique Group North meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at King's Restaurant, Wexford Exit of I-79. The piece that you bring to the meeting can be of any length and at any stage of writing. For details, contact Madhu B. Wangu at m.wangu@comcast.net.

We have a new group starting up in 2010. If you write about religion (spirituality, faith) or arts (poetry, painting) and feel your work is too quirky for religion/art magazines and too religious for literary ones, join "Forum About Spirituality, Religion and Creativity." The first meeting will be Jan. 28. Madhu B. Wangu will facilitate the group. Contact her at m.wangu@comcast.net.

Contact Annette at 724-255-7955;
annette@annettedashofy.com

Market News

by Jim Lee, Area 4, Associate Editor; Market Reports

To make “A Fresh Start” in 2010, don’t limit yourself to the tried and true. Submit to new markets (lots of contests this time). Maybe try your hand at a writing form or subject area new to you. Do something different!

Oatmeal Studios pays on acceptance for humorous greeting card slogans/verses. They also do notepads and stick-on notes. They prefer unrhymed verse ideas and need “material that says something funny about life in a new way.” Send a #10 SASE for their guidelines, which includes their current market list and pay schedule for freelancers, to PO Box 138WP, Rochester VT 05767. They list an e-mail address (dawn@oatmealstudios.com), but I’d send for the guides first (6 week response time listed).

Doral Publishing, Inc. (3 Burroughs, Irvine CA 92618) publishes 10 books/yr. All deal with dog and dog-related subjects, with a primary focus on purebreds, their owners and shows. They pay 10% royalty on wholesale price and use both nonfiction (dog health, medicine, breed-focused books) and fiction (with dog as central character or at least having an integral role in story). Query w/SASE (address as above), including outline and 2 sample chapters. But first, check their guides (for SASE) and perhaps their Web site (www.doralpub.com). Listed contact people are Alvin Grossman, publisher and Joe Liddy, marketing manager.

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP for short) sponsors **The AWP Award Series**, an annual competition open to all authors writing in English. Their Donald Hall Prize for Poetry offers a \$4000 award and publication of the winning book-length poetry ms. The Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction does the same

for the best story collection. Winners in the Creative Nonfiction and Novel categories get \$2000 and publication. Mss for this year must be postmarked between Jan. 1 & Feb 28, 2010. For guides and to obtain entry form, visit www.awpwriter.org. All submissions and other correspondence should go to



The Association of Writers & Writing Programs, Carty House, Mail Stop 1E3, George Mason University, Fairfax VA 22030-4444.

A literary mag called **Zone 3** is running its annual fiction contest. Prize: \$250. Send your best story w/SASE and \$10 entry fee (1-year subscription to the magazine included with entry) to APSU, Box 4565, Clarksville TN 37044. No deadline, but visit www.apsu.edu/zone3/contest/index.html for contest details and list of past winners.

Toadlily Press will select 4 chapbook-length poetry collections (send 2 copies of 16-18 pages during January 2010) for publication in a single perfect-bound book. There is no submission fee and winning poets receive \$100 and 25 copies of the book. For guides, check their Web site (www.toadlilypress.com).

Futurecycle Poetry and its press read subs year-round of individual poems, chapbook and full-length poetry collections. They have an annual book contest w/\$1000 prize plus publication. Check their Web site (www.futurecycle.org/guidelines.aspx) for guidelines.

Crab Orchard Review is accepting work for their next issue through April. Published by the Department of English at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, they use literary short fiction (25-pg max, 10-15 pgs preferred, stand-alone novel excerpts okay), poems (batch of 6 max) and creative nonfiction (“non-academic, exploratory essays” at same lengths as fiction). Pay (on pub) is \$20/pg (\$50 minimum for poetry, \$100 minimum prose), 2

contributor copies and 1-year sub to the mag. No previously published or electronic subs. Online info at www.siuc.edu/~crborchd/. Mail work to them at Faner 2380 – Mail Code 4503, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1000 Faner Drive, Carbondale IL 62901.

TriQuarterly Magazine has switched to an online-only format. The old editorial team has been replaced in favor of a student-run operation. For current info, visit their Web site (www.triquarterly.org).

Teachers College Press puts out 60 books/yr. They “pay industry standard royalties and advances” for nonfiction subjects such as computers, electronics, education, film/cinema studies, stage, government/politics, history, philosophy, sociology, and women’s issues/studies. Guides online (www.teacherscollegepress.com) and their mail address is 1234 Amsterdam Ave., New York NY 10027.

Glimmer Train is one of the best-paying lit mags (\$700-2000). Its current theme issue (“Family Matters”) deadline is coming up fast (January 31), with more undoubtedly

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to follow. For details (and to submit online), see www.glimmertrain.org.

Salem College's **2010 International Literary Awards** offer \$4000 in prizes for short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction. But this is another short deadline (Feb. 1), so check their online guides (www.salem.edu/go/cww) quick, if interested.

Plain View Press says it's been publishing books of fiction, poetry and nonfiction on topics such as environmental protection, peace and gender/racial/economic justice for 30 years. Guides at their Web site (www.plainviewpress.net).

Winning Writers sponsors **Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest** annually. 15 prizes, totaling \$3600 (top prize is \$1500) for funny poems. Entry fee is \$15, deadline is April 1, 2010 and they promise a simplified online entry process. Check their guides and other info at www.winningwriters.com/wergle.

Omnidawn's annual poetry chapbook contest runs through Feb. 28. Entry fee is \$15, winner gets \$1000, publication, and 100 copies. See guides at www.omnidawn.com.

A college literary mag, **Fugue**, uses fiction (6000 wd. max), poetry (3-5 poems or 10 pages), nonfiction ("exquisite, idiosyncratic reflections on compelling subjects" to 6000 wds) and creative literary criticism (to 6000 wds, "insightful but not overly academic"). Include cover letter w/ name, address, e-mail, phone, list of work(s) sent and a brief bio citing awards/past publications. Send to appropriate department editor during their submission period (Sept. 1-May 1, postmarked). Pay on pub ("as funds allow") is up to \$50 for prose, up to \$25 for poems. Their address: 200

Brink Hall, University of Idaho, PO Box 441102, Moscow ID 83844.

Gourmet Magazine, Cookie, Modern Bride and **Elegant Bride** have all been discontinued by publishing giant Conde Nast.

In its 18th yr., the **Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story Contest** offers 10 cash prizes, totaling \$5500 (top prize: \$3000). They want prose (essays as well as fiction), 5000 wds max. Previously pub'd or unpublished both okay. Winning entries also pub'd online. \$15 entry fee, payable to Winning Writers, Postmark subs by March 31. Info: www.winningwriters.com/tomstory. Send to this one by mail (Winning Writers, attn: Tom Howard Short Story Contest, 351 Pleasant St., PMB 222, Northampton MA 01060) or online.

Sacramento Poetry Center's 2nd annual contest offers a \$1000 prize plus pub for original poems, 48-70 pgs. \$20 entry fee to SPC, Poetry Book Contest, PO Box 160406, Sacramento CA 95816. Deadline: March 31, 2010. Additional info at www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org.

Willow Springs Fiction Prize pays \$2000 plus pub for winning story. Deadline is March 1; entry fee is \$15. Check their Web site (<http://willowsprings.ewu.edu>) for details.

The 2010 Nelligan Prize awards \$1500 for the winning short story, which will then be pub'd in the Fall '10 issue of *Colorado Review*. Postmark subs (w/\$15 entry) by March 13, 2010 to Nelligan Prize, *Colorado Review*, 9105 Campus Delivery, Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO 80523-9105. Guides available from mail address (send SASE) or online (<http://nelliganprize.colostate.edu>).

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Area 6 Report

by Robert Michalsky
Area 6 Representative

Happy New Year, Writers of Area 6!

Why not start the year off with a fresh resolution to volunteer a few hours with your favorite writers' organization?

Bob and Jade need your help to keep Area 6 activities running. We have jobs large and small which need leaders, contributors, organizers, editors, and naturally – writers!

Volunteers in Area 6 keep our critique groups running, our blog posts interesting, and our community thriving. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed time and energy in 2009 to support Pennwriters activities.

Speaking of volunteer work – why not write to Ayleen Stellhorn (ayleen@embarqmail.com) while you're getting ambitious for the New Year? The May 2010 Pennwriters Conference is only a few months away, and there is always a need for another pair of hands.

In March 2010 the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group (GLVWG) offers "The Write Stuff" Annual Conference to be held in Allentown, PA. Join fellow Pennwriters and writers from across the nation at this regional event. For more information visit: www.glvwg.org/writestuff.htm.

Are you following the Area 6 blog? Visit your www.pennwritersarea6.wordpress.com to learn about local events, read up on writing tips, and contribute your articles.

Remember: "You get out what you put in." This New Year make your writing goals a priority by reaching out to Pennwriters. Bob Michalsky and Jade Blackwater are available to support Area 6 members in pursuit of their 2010 writing goals. Contact us via e-mail (area6rep@pennwriters.com).

Contact Robert at
robert.michalsky@gmail.com

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Our previous column included info on Tor Books paranormal romance line. This is just one branch of **Tom Doherty Associates LLC**, one of the leading genre publishers. Imprints include Forge Books, Orb Books and Tor. The company's various units do SF, fantasy, horror, mysteries, suspense, westerns, techno thrillers, American historical and fictionalized true crime. For guides, go online (www.tor-forge.com).

Instinct Magazine calls itself a blend of *Cosmo* and *Maxim* for gay men. They want "smart, sexy, irreverent nonfiction with a sense of humor" and freelancers should be specific, as well as inventive in subject matter. Needs expose, general interest, humor, interview, celebrity and non-celebrity, travel, as well as various columns, but no first-person articles. 500-2000 wds. You can send complete ms, but they sometimes pay writers on assignment, so you might want to query in advance by mail (303 N. Glen Oaks Blvd., Suite L-120, Burbank CA 91502) or by e-mail (editor@instinctmag.com). Online pitches are preferred (they seldom buy finished, unsolicited mss). Base pay range is \$50-300, on pub w/20% kill fees. They buy all rights. Sample copy and guidelines available online (www.instinctmag.com).

Paddler Magazine calls itself "The World's #1 Canoeing, Kayaking and Rafting Magazine." A bimonthly, they use 70% freelance material. They pay 10-25 cents/wd for unsolicited articles, more for established writers and sometimes pay expenses for writers on assignment. They also pay separately for photos or other art (articles should include these). Lengths vary (100-3000 wds) and they use all sorts of nonfiction material related to their area of interest. Query by mail (12040 98th Ave. NE, Suite 205, Kirkland WA 98034) or e-mail (mike@paddlermagazine.com). As

always, be as familiar as possible with mags you're trying to work for. Guides online (www.paddlermagazine.com).

And considering our focus on new stuff this time, consider the news that Simon and Schuster has partnered with a California-based company, **Vook LLC**, to produce 4 "vooks"—combination books and videos available as applications for computers, iPhones and iPod Touch.

Bethany House publishes Christian fiction in a variety of genres. Historical romance is a big part of their list. Of the approximately 40 books a year they publish, 18-20 are historical romance. They are usually set in the 1800s in the US. They publish prairie romances, as well as other historical time periods. They do a few books set in England in the Regency and Victorian eras. They also publish historical women's fiction or multi-generational sagas. There may be a romance element to these stories, but romance is not central to these books. Bethany is also interested in romantic suspense, where there is the greatest opportunity for new authors. They don't do cozy mystery type stories. The stories should be darker and more intense. They also do suspense and mystery and some speculative fiction aimed at teens and twenties. (But no vampires.) For more information, visit their Web site at www.bethanyhouse.com

Strangetastic (www.strangetastic.com) is a new online publication looking for all kinds of supernatural fiction, from dark fantasy to light horror. Stories should be between 1000 and 6000 words. Payment is \$25. Find all the details at www.strangetastic.com/submissions

Kensington Zebra Books is open to historical and contemporary romance. They prefer sexier books, paranormal

romance, romantic suspense and African American romance. They are also interested in women's fiction (aka "quality fiction"), which they publish in trade paperback. They are open to "interesting ethnic fiction" and cited books by Indian and Chinese authors on their list. They are also interested in historical fiction. In their *Aphrodesia*, they're looking for really original ideas, such as shape-shifting, etc. In *Brava*, the focus is on ratcheting up the level of sexuality. *Brava* covers are being redesigned. The books come out in trade paper and mass market paperback. Kensington accepts both agented and unagented authors. Send a cover letter, the first three chapters and a synopsis no longer than five pages. You may query only by e-mail. The editor's e-mail addresses are listed on the guidelines page of the Kensington Web site.

Gumshoe Review is interested in short fiction mysteries and nonfiction articles about the mystery field. Maximum 1000 words. They pay five cents a word. E-mail submissions to Editor Gail Surette at editor@gumshoereview.com Visit their Web site for more information.

Danielle Perez will be the new executive editor at **New American Library**, starting January 4. Ms. Perez will be acquiring commercial fiction and nonfiction. She was previously with Ballantine, Bantam Dell and Random House.

[In addition to my inquires, information this time comes from *Poets & Writers Magazine* (Poets & Writers, Inc.), 2010 *Writer's Market* (Writer's Digest Books), *Writer's Chronicle* (AWP/George Mason University) and, as always, Martha Johnson. Thanks to all!]



Member Accomplishments

AYLEEN STELLHORN, Area 5, had five articles published in *Lancaster Farming* and two features in *PennLines*, the corporate magazine of Adams Electric Cooperative.

ANN VITALE, Area 2, sold her third and fourth pieces of the year to CUP OF COMFORT FOR THE GRIEVING HEART and CUP OF COMFORT FOR A BETTER WORLD. She previously published in CUP OF COMFORT FOR DOG LOVERS II and CHICKEN SOUP: WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE DOG.

DORIS DUMRAUF, Area 3, published an article about the Soldiers & Sailors Hall in the November/December 2009 issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine*.

MARTHA JOHNSON, Area 2, writing as Marta Perry, recently contracted with Berkley Books for books 4, 5, and 6 in her Pleasant Valley Amish series. She has also contracted with Harlequin's HQN Books for the release of three romantic suspense novels with Amish settings.

STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER, Area 5, had an article in the November issue of *Harrisburg Magazine* titled, "Harrisburg School District Alumni, Giving Back." She also has an article in *The Burg* newspaper—"How Sweet It Is!" a story about the upcoming ChocolateFest in Hershey.

JONATHAN MABERRY, Area 5, reports that his thriller PATIENT ZERO (St. Martin's Griffin), and the next two in the series have been optioned for TV by SONY. The second in the series, THE DRAGON FACTORY, debuts in March. He also sold two young adult novels—ROT & RUIN and DUST

& DECAY—to Simon & Schuster. He also started writing for Marvel Comics and has two high-profile 'Marvel Event' limited series scheduled for 2010: DOOMWAR (which debuts in March) and MARVEL INFECTED (launching in April).

NANCY SPRINGER, Area 7, writes that THE CASE OF THE PECULIAR PINK FAN: AN ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERY, #4 in the series has been listed by the Amelia Bloomer Project as a book that projects a strong positive image of girls and women.

JIM LEE, Area 4, had a book review in the Autumn 2009 issue of *Tales of the Talisman* and sold another erotic fiction piece to *Hustler Fantasies* (issue to be announced).



Area 5 Report

by Walt Honsinger
Area 5 Representative

We've seen a lot of new faces at our critique meetings! Each meeting seems to bring in new authors desiring help and knowledge in writing and marketing their work. We've had fiction writers, freelancers, and nonfiction writers attending. We've also had quite a few correspondents stopping by.

Our local writers have been busy marketing their work. I've attended book signings in Harrisburg, York, Pennsboro, Lititz and Lancaster. A large event took place in Reading also.

Several of our writers have work that is due out soon: novels, non-fiction work and magazine articles.

Interest in the upcoming conference is building. Several local book stores have asked about it. We are very excited that it will be in our area.

Contact Walt at 717-560-9641;
walthonsinger@hotmail.com

Area 7 Report

by Bobbi Carducci
Area 7 Liaison

Area 7 continues to grow as more writers become aware of the quality of Pennwriters conferences and the support offered to members. I continue to encourage members to invite writers in their local regions to meet with them in order to introduce them to the Pennwriters organization. One long term goal is to establish more Pennwriters Areas throughout the US.

Contact Bobbi at 540-338-5064;
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Conference Chatter Liz Scheier to Speak at 2010 Published Penns Luncheon

by Madhu B. Wangu, Area 3, Author Advocate

During the upcoming annual conference, the Published Penns will be presented with a timely discourse by our distinguished speaker, Liz Scheier. After 10 years as an editor at Random House and Penguin, Ms. Scheier is now the Director of Publisher Relations at ScrollMotion, the content technology company that makes the Iceberg e-reader application for the iPhone.

At a time when the faces of publishers and publishing are in constant flux, Ms. Scheier will inform us about traditional publishing, self-publishing, e-publishing and vanity publishing. Whether writers want to earn a living by writing or use writing as a creative outlet their eventual goal is to get published. The speaker will educate us about how to



make knowledgeable decisions before making a publishing plan.

Ms. Scheier sees the publishing glass as half full. She writes, “With the economy in freefall, massive layoffs

at traditional publishing houses, doomsday rumors on the blogosphere, and price wars raging, it’s easy to get swept up in fears that the publishing sky is falling. Don’t believe it! This is a time of great change and innovation, and there are opportunities for writers both new and long published that didn’t exist even five years ago. Sweeping changes in the way books are conceived, written, published, marketed and delivered to their audiences give writers new ways to tell their stories—and readers new ways to find them. I’ll talk about all the reasons that this is an opportune time to finally finish a first novel, tackle a series, re-launch a stalled career, or start over.”

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity!

What is Pennwriters, Inc.?

Pennwriters, Inc. is an independent network of writers with more than 450 members from Pennsylvania and beyond. Established in 1988 as a networking organization for published and aspiring writers of all genres, Pennwriters, Inc. has continued to grow. For more information, contact Lisa Kastner at lisadkastner@gmail.com.

Submitting to *The Penn Writer*

Have a submission for *The Penn Writer*? Contact Editor Lori Morris via e-mail at lorimorris@verizon.net or via mail at 1933 Elmbrook Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15243. Deadline for the March-April issue is Feb. 1. The theme is “Plotting Along.” The theme for the May-June issue is “Writing for the Children’s and Young Adult Market.” We always welcome submissions not based on theme as well. We hope to hear from you!