

THE Penn Writer

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Breaking into a New Writing Market

by Lori Morris, Area 3, Newsletter Editor

Breaking into a new market can be a challenge, but the challenge shouldn't deter you from reaching your writing goals.

Using publishing credits and your existing knowledge, you can break into almost any market.

Most editors agree that good writing is good writing regardless of the topic, so don't be afraid to use previously published clips to show your writing ability. Even if the editor will not grant an important financial profile to an education writer, he/she may be impressed enough with your writing to start you out with a smaller financial piece.

If you don't have many writing clips, learn to use the Internet to find an audience. As discouraging as it can be to write for free, writing for ezines, Web sites and blogs can pay off in the long run. You can use these resources to gain a readership and establish a clip file.

Writing fillers is another great way to break in. Most fillers are written on spec so you don't need to waste time "selling yourself" with queries. Write a number of fillers in the area you are interested in breaking into and flood the market until you get a bite.

Offering multiple story angles can also help get you noticed. An editor may not have interest in your

travel piece about Virginia Beach tourist activities, but may show interest in

how to make your dollar stretch further in Virginia Beach this summer, why Virginia Beach is a great destination for families with young children, or why Virginia Beach is attracting more vacationers than other coastal cities.

Sometimes using your current expertise can help transition you into a new writing subject. Cross-over pieces combine your current established market with the sought after market. For example, if you write fitness but want to break into the travel market, you can start by profiling spas and wellness hotels.

Perhaps the best place to break into writing is in your own backyard. Do you want to break into medical writing? Profile some neighborhood doctors or homeopathy businesses for your local newspaper.

You can also use personal experiences to provide a unique angle. Do you want to be an entertainment writer? Pitch an article centered around your personal experience at a recent play or concert. In the query letter, make sure to mention your experience with the topic you are pitching.

Finally, don't give up. Writing is a labor of love, and eventually your hard work will pay off. Good luck!

Special Insert!
January-June issue of Pennwriters
Newsletter for Booksellers, Pages 8-13

President's Column

by Lisa Kastner, Area 6, President



I write this column eagerly anticipating the upcoming conference. Annette Dashofy and her team have done an incredible job of developing a stellar line up of workshop leaders, guest speakers, and activities from which the novice to the award winning and multipublished writer can benefit. Lisa Scottoline, this year's keynote speaker, is known for her fun, dynamic, and entertaining presentations.

I'm sure we will all enjoy our evening at the keynote dinner.

I am also very proud of the work of the area representatives and chairpersons. The work of Jamie Saloff on our incredible Web site, Nate Hardy for the online workshops, online networking opportunities, and Pennwriters Presents question and answers with "those in the know" are only a few of the new activities offered to our members. Our area representatives have been diligently working to ensure that their constituents have the resources they need to pursue and achieve their writing goals.

Another example of new benefits include digitally recording this year's conference workshops and making those records available online to our members. This will be a fast and easy way for you to catch a lecture you couldn't attend or to listen one more time to your favorite lecturer. All of these activities provide additional benefits, to you, our members.

The theme for this newsletter is breaking into writing, which I think we can all appreciate. Many of our members cross writing disciplines, including myself. I began writing as a journalist for a small community newspaper and for my university in both the newspaper and in public relations. Later, those skills I learned in public relations and journalism style writing turned out to be an excellent launching point for corporate communications and business writing. My experiences in corporate communications writing led me to much broader internal and external communications writing and development. All of these experiences then created a solid foundation for my fictional writing endeavors. Journalism and corporate communications taught me to write succinctly and to formulate my thoughts in a palatable way—skills

invaluable for fiction writing. My story is only one in a chorus of amazing stories within Pennwriters. I hope to hear about your writing projects and how those experiences enabled you to try new realms of writing.

A toast to great writing and attaining our writing dreams.

Ride Share to Conference

Thinking about going to the conference in Pittsburgh but don't want to drive alone? We have a great solution: join the ride share.

Check out the Pennwriters Web site (www.pennwriters.com) under "Conference" then "Conf. News."

It is your responsibility to contact the people listed to arrange rides and exchange phone numbers and addresses.

Moderate a Session

Looking for a great way to get involved with the 2009 Pennwriters Conference? Why not volunteer to be a moderator for one or more of the great panels/workshops?

Drop Sheryl Nantus a line at xfdragon@zoominternet.net and let her know what panels or areas you would be interested in.

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

Notice: Publication herein of articles, interviews, and news concerning markets, contests, seminars, classes, etc., does not imply an endorsement, recommendation or any warranty given by Pennwriters. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability, integrity, and financial responsibility of those with whom they deal.

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Donate to the Chinese Auction

by Meredith Cohen, Area 3

Greetings Fellow Pennwriters!

Conference time is rapidly approaching! Do you have three copies of *War and Peace*? A host of unused writing books clogging your book shelves? Spare tea cozies from your Aunt Sarah? Dust them off and pack them in your suitcase!

I am in charge of the Chinese auction at the May 2009 Pennwriters Conference and am seeking donations of goodie baskets to be auctioned off at the conference. If you are unfamiliar with this conference event, here's a brief description: individuals or groups donate baskets filled with items that writers would find entertaining,

delectable or useful; those attending the conference buy tickets and drop them into the bags in front of the baskets they want to win; then we draw names to find out who actually wins the baskets. Baskets can be writing related, but they don't have to be. Your donation doesn't even need to be an entire basket; individual items that can be added to other baskets are always welcome. Donations can be given to me at the conference, but I'd appreciate hearing about them ahead of time. Write to me at mcohen61@hotmail.com or call 412-512-3763.

Many thanks to you all for all you do and for helping to make this enjoyable Conference event a success!

Member Accomplishments

ANNETTE DASHOFY, Area 3, reports her story, "An Assassin in the Family," will be published in the Spring 2009 issue of *Mysterical-e* (www.mystericale.com).

DORIS DUMRAUF, Area 3, has published a photo feature in the Spring 2009 issue of *Pennsylvania Pursuits Magazine*. She also has a photo feature of her birding experiences at Presque Isle in the March/April 2009 issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine*.

JIM LEE, Area 4, reports sale of another short story to *Tales of the Talisman* (scheduled for the quarterly's December issue) and he's broken into a new market, placing a book review article in *The Raven Chronicles* (see listing in the Market News column).



JOYCE TREMEL, Area 3, is being published in the Spring 2009 issue of *Mysterical-e* (www.mystericle.com). Her story is titled "Agatha."

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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

Yahoo Group = www.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

Area 1 Report

by David Szymanowski
Area 1 Representative

Catherine McLean held a successful “Magazine, Article, and Essay” mini-workshop through the Meadville Vicinity Pennwriters (MVP) on March 28 at the Meadville Public Library. Catherine has accepted the Pennwriters’ position as the new Round Robin Coordinator. I would like to thank Alice Weyers for her many years as Coordinator.

The Shenango Valley Pennwriters (SVP) meets every 3rd Saturday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Library of Shenango Valley. Catherine is also the leader for the Meadville group that meets the first Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Tellers Row Coffee Bar, in @The Bank, 940 Park Ave., downtown Meadville. She may be reached at mouserun@certainty.net.

The Fellowship of the Quill, a writer’s fellowship group, meets every Thursday evening at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse at 7:00 pm. For information contact Todd Main at Todd_Main@steris.com. The other Erie meetings are critique groups and meet on the 2nd Saturday at the Erie Book Store and 4th Saturdays at Barnes & Noble from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The other evening group convenes at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Mercy Center for the Aging.

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

Area 7 Report

by Bobbi Carducci
Area 7 Liaison

Nothing to report from Area 7. We are looking forward to the upcoming conference and learning as much as possible.

Contact Bobbi at 540-338-5064;
bcarducci@comcast.net

Pennwriters Offers Online Courses

by Nate Hardy, Area 6, Internet Activities Coordinator

Pennwriters continues to offer members new educational and online services. The internet is the future for writers. And writers must always be open to learn more about their craft and the publishing market. We make it easy for you to get the results you need with our annual conferences and weekly “Pennwriters Presents” online program—featuring live discussions with authors, agents, and editors.

Now Pennwriters offers online courses monthly, open to non-members as well as members. They’re a great way to save money on the education you need. Members receive discounted prices of 10-20%. You’ll love the flexibility to work through lecture material and class discussions at times that fit your schedule—and you can do it all from the safety, comfort, and convenience of your home or any other computer.

Market News

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

“Breaking Into a New Market” can mean trying a whole new area of writing. As such, your Market News column is pleased to offer up its usual wide range of possibilities.

Publishing hardcover originals, and both hardcover and trade paperback reprints, **Poisoned Pen Press** wants “well-written mystery novels of crime and/or detection where the puzzle and its resolution are the main forces that move the story forward.” They do 36 titles/yr. and pay 9-15% royalty on retail price (no mention of advance). Lengths: 65,000-100,000 wds. All queries and subs as attachments to editor@poisonedpenpress.com or by mail (6962 E. 1st Ave., #103, Scottsdale AZ 85251) on non-returnable disk or CD. Full guidelines online (www.poisonedpenpress.com).

Proven instructors teach each course, including Catherine McLean (author of 30+ workshops and 20+ writing technique articles), Jack Hillman (seasoned seminar instructor and head of Published Pennwriters approvals), Nate Hardy (marketing coach and author of 100+ fiction and nonfiction works), and Nancy Martin (perennial conference lecturer, Pennwriters’ founder, and author of more than 50 novels). Covering a range of topics from plotting to marketing to scene sequencing, you’re virtually guaranteed to learn something new.

Sign up for an online course today. It’s easy. Simply visit our Web site at www.Pennwriters.org and click on the “COURSES” menu button.

See you in class!

Southern Illinois University Press is a “scholarly” press specializing in “film and theater studies, rhetoric and composition, American history (especially Civil War), regional and nonfiction trade, and poetry.” They use no fiction but put out 50-60 titles/yr. Pays 5-10% royalty on wholesale price (rarely offers advance). Book catalog and ms. guides free for SASE (1915 University Press Dr., SIUC Mail Code 6806, Carbondale IL 62901). Check their Web site (www.siu.edu/~suiypress) for extra info.

Anybody out there working on “academic textbooks or professional reference works on various medical topics”? If so, **Slack, Inc.** might publish you in either hardcover or softcover, or on CD-ROM. They pay

See Market News, Page 6

McLean Appointed Round Robin Critique Chair

Catherine McLean has been appointed coordinator of the Pennwriters Round Robin critique groups. Alice Weyers formerly held the position for the last 10 years.

Round Robin critiques are groups of three to four members who send manuscript copies to each other via U.S. mail. "It's an intensive training tool," Alice said. "By the time your pages come back, you have input from at least three people. That really helps a writer."

A round robin by mail may seem a slow, outdated method as compared to e-mail or an online critique group, but, as Alice points out, most online or e-mail critiques are done fast—the words read on a screen. Things get missed and the results are not the in-depth evaluation that using hard-copy sent by mail provides. Such critiquing, Alice said, "Keeps visions fresh and keeps skills honed."

Manuscripts come back to their authors in about a month, and new

material is sent out, which means, Alice said, "that you have a deadline to meet, a goal. It (the deadline) keeps you writing—and turning out work more consistently."

Members of a round robin also network with each other.

Catherine encourages members, regardless of their skill level, to join a Round Robin critique group by filling out and returning the request form below.

Get Feedback on Your Manuscript

by Catherine E. McLean, Area 1, Critique Coordinator

Can't get to area meetings as often as you like? Live too far away from your area meetings or other Pennwriters? Do you write in a genre that isn't as popular as other genres, and it's difficult to find like-minded writers to network with?

Then consider becoming part of a round robin critique group. Whether

you write short stories, novel-length fiction or creative nonfiction, participating in a round robin—or a critique partnership—is an excellent way to get feedback on your work. As you exchange critiques with others, you'll learn to write better prose, become more productive, and improve your chances of selling your work.

If you have a question or want more information about Pennwriters critique groups, please contact Catherine McLean at 814-425-7163 or mouserun@certainty.net. If you would like to join a round robin or form a critique partnership, fill out the request form and mail it to the address given.

Pennwriters -- ROUND ROBIN & CRITIQUE -- Request Form

I want to be part of a round robin critique group.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

E-mail address @

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
DATE REC'D.....
<input type="checkbox"/> SENT CRITIQUE INFO
<input type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNED TO A GROUP

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY--THIS WILL SPEED UP MATCHING YOU WITH COMPATIBLE PARTNERS

My manuscript is completed a Work in Progress fiction creative nonfiction completed, ready-to submit but I'd like someone to read it from beginning to end

Length is: short story novelette novella novel **approx.words** (actual computer word count)

Genre is: romance mystery/suspense science fiction fantasy horror westerns, men's fiction women's fiction (not romance) mainstream literary historical-fiction historical-nonfiction Christian/inspirational biography/memoir (nonfiction) other

I prefer one-on-one critiquing by US Mail one-on-one critiquing by e-mail a Round Robin by mail with up to 4 people in my genre a Round Robin by mail with up to 4 people with a mix of compatible genres and

I prefer all female partners all male partners a mix of sexes

I do not want to read or critique: any strong language steamy graphic love scenes gory action, brutality, or horror

Fill out and mail this form to: **Catherine E. McLean, Pennwriters Critique Coordinator**
P. O. Box 41, Carlton PA 16311

Area 2 Report

by Katie Yelinek

Area 2 Representative

Area 2 is coming out of hibernation, energized and ready for a successful year. I'm pleased to be your new rep! Remember, you can always contact me with questions or suggestions.

An online survey conducted in late February allowed members to indicate preferences for activities and workshops. As a result, an area news bulletin debuted just in time for April Fool's Day. The news bulletin provides information on member accomplishments, area writing opportunities, and news of the publishing world. Also, a new area e-loop launched in early April. This e-loop provides a quick and easy means for area members to communicate. If you haven't already, please sign up for the e-loop.

I'm currently planning some fall workshops. If you have a topic in mind, let me know.

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

Area 4 Report

by Mona Papoutsis

Area 4 Representative

There are now two writer's critique groups in Area 4. Both groups are glad to accept new members.

Chambersburg group

Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month. 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Contact Mona (info. below).

Works in Progress Writers

Workshop Meetings are held twice a month on Thursdays, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in Somerset. Contact: Barbara Purbaugh at 814-443-9541 or purbaugh@comcast.net

If there is any other interest in starting a Critique Group in your area, please let me know.

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

Market News (cont. from Page 4)

10% royalty, with advance (amount not listed) and publish up to 35 titles annually. Book catalog and ms guides available (6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare NJ 08086). Guides also online (www.slackbooks.com).

Here's a "tasty" trade magazine: **Pizza Today** is a monthly on business management for pizza entrepreneurs. Articles (500-1200 wds) on food prep, marketing strategy, beverages, industry technology, ingredients, hiring and training, etc. Every piece should feature tips for operating a better business. Present technical concepts in a clear manner, while not so basic that experienced types would be turned off. They pay 50 cents/wd. on acceptance. Query by e-mail (jwhite@pizzatoday.com), mail (Macfadden Protech, LLC, 908 S. 8th St., Ste. 200, Louisville KY 40203) or Fax (502-736-9502).

Less specialized, **MyBusiness** is a bimonthly read by 550,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business. Guidelines are online (www.mybusinessmag.com). They pay on acceptance (amount varies) for entries in various columns and departments and require queries by e-mail (feedback@mybusinessmag.com) or mail (Editorial Dept. c/o MyBusiness magazine, 3322 W. End Ave., Ste. 700, Nashville TN 37203). They use First North American Serial Rights (FNASR) and electronic rights. "The most successful queries are tightly focused and contain unique information about the small business experience." (And yes, it seems they write the magazine's title as one word.)

Up for trying an interesting foreign market? **STORIE, All Write** is one of Italy's top lit mags and publishes in a bilingual (Italian/English) format. The bimonthly needs high quality literary fiction (6000 wds max), poetry, literary essays and criticism. They pay

\$30-600 and two contributor copies on pub. Send work by e-mail (storie@tiscali.it) or on disk by mail to Leconte Press, Via Suor Celestina Donati 13/E, Rome 00167, Italy. But check their guidelines online first (www.storie.it) and be prepared for a six month response time. And remember those IRCs for international, by-mail subs!

Somebody out there is putting together a nonfiction anthology on "the life-changing relationship between fathers and daughters." They want personal essays (5000-wd max) on all sorts of fathers (good or bad/nonexistent, deeply enmeshed or distant) and how they affected their daughters. Pay of \$100 (for one-time rights) is "made at time of contract." Send in standard format as a Word document to writerswanted@gmail.com.

Anybody out there know/meet Elvis? Have a nonfiction story from his life you'd care to submit to a new, copyrighted anthology? **ELVIS AND EVERYONE: An American Document** is the project's title and they're paying on pub (amount?) for "everyday stories from the life of Elvis." Include info about yourself and circumstances of when, where, how you met The King. E-mail (elvisstories@charter.net) or send by mail (Elvis Stories, PO Box 91, Newport OR 97365).

Yet another nonfiction theme anthology, this one with a listed deadline (August 31)! This one is about "doulas" and needs true, first-person accounts from moms, dads, midwives, docs, nurses and others present at doula-supported births. No mention of payment in listing. Send ms (2000-wd. max) and 50-wd bio as MS Word attachment to eclift@vermontel.net.

See Market News, Page 7

Market News *(cont. from Page 6)*

With the advent of spring, the magazine **Dark Discoveries** reopens to subs, although warning of a very long response time (up to a year). Fiction (horror/dark fantasy and dark mystery), 500-5000 wds wanted. Need original idea and new twists on old conventions. Vampire/werewolf stories are a tough sell here. Especially into works that examine the darker side of the human condition. Pay range is \$20-40 on pub, plus two copies for previously unpublished; \$15-20 for reprints (but query before sending reprints and editor says he concentrates on new material). Also interested in interviews with authors of published H/DF material, 5000 wds max, \$30 plus copies for new, \$15 plus copies for reprint—query first by mail (142 Woodside Dr., Longview WA 98632) or e-mail (info@darkdiscoveries.com).

The March/April issue of **Poets**

& **Writers** had yet another of their often-fascinating panel discussions/joint interviews with publishing pros. This one features four younger editors with various book publishers. Lots of tips and insights for writers in this series. Full text of this (and seven previous installments in their “Agents & Editors” series) can be read at PW.ORG/MAGAZINE.

A major source of religious books, **Moody Publishers** accepts subs from agents only.

A monthly business mag, **The American Salesman**, uses unsolicited subs, 500-1000 wds. Articles on increasing sales (case studies or PR articles), sales seminars, customer

service, closing sales, competition, phone usage, managing your territory, new sales concepts, etc.—all for sales professionals. They pay 4 cents/wd. for All Rights. While listing indicates subs by hard copy only (to National Research Bureau, 320 Valley St., Burlington VT 52601), the same write-up lists an e-mail address (articles@salestrainingandtechniques.com), so I’d strongly advise checking their guides online (www.salestrainingandtechniques.com) before sending anything.

The Raven Chronicles is a small-circulation magazine that strives to reflect the cultural diversity of



the Americas, with particular emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. They “promote art, literature, and the spoken word for an audience that is hip, literate, funny, informed, and lives in a society that has a multicultural sensibility.” Whew! Their next issue (sub deadline: July 1) is

on travel stories—real and imagined. They’d like fiction and nonfiction (12-page max for either), poetry (max 3 poems/sub) related to the theme. Also sponsoring a special contest: \$200 prize for best travel essay (\$10 fee/entry). Acceptance earns copies and “when possible” token payment (\$10-40), after publication. Subs by mail (12346 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle WA 98125). Include cover letter w/brief bio and contact info. Simultaneous subs no longer accepted. Contact Phoebe Bosche, managing editor. Guides available by mail (address as above) for SASE, or check their Web site (www.ravenchronicles.org).

See Market News, Page 14

Area 3 Report

by Annette Dashofy
Area 3 Representative

If you are a member of Area 3 and are not receiving Area 3 Announcements by e-mail (or by USPS if you don’t have Internet), please let me know so I can add you to my list. You can reach me at the contact information below.

The Second Tuesday of the Month Group has been preparing its members for the conference by working on their pitches. The group meets at the Barnes & Noble in North Fayette at 7:00 p.m. For details contact Meredith Cohen at mcohen61@hotmail.com.

The Bridgeville Group meets on the last Thursday of each month at Cici’s Restaurant in Bridgeville. Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. Upcoming topics of discussion include a review of the Pennwriters Conference (May) and paying markets (June). For more information, contact me.

The Pittsburgh East Writers have moved to the Monroeville Public Library’s large downstairs Program Room. Please e-mail Ellen for membership application into this group. Check out www.EllenSpain.com for workshops scheduled for 2009. They meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

The Critique Group North now meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the King’s Restaurant off the Wexford Exit of I-79. For details, contact Madhu B. Wangu at m.wangu@comcast.net.

A South Hills daytime critique group is open to new members. The group meets on alternate Tuesdays from 10:00 to noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church (room 231) on Route 19 in Upper St. Clair. Contact Jodi Elgin at 412-833-3957 or jselgin@comcast.net for further details or directions.

Contact Annette at 724-255-7955;
adashofy@yahoo.com



Newsletter For Booksellers

Volume XXI Number 3

January-June 2009

Dear Booksellers,

We welcome you to join us in promoting books by Pennwriters. Please browse through the book reviews and choose the ones that suit your needs. Our authors are eager to speak at your store as well as make appointments for book signings. They are available for speaking engagements, reading sessions, and workshops. The more customers we attract, the more books we can sell.

Thank you for helping us promote our present and future bestsellers. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Madhu B. Wangu, Author Advocate, at m.wangu@comcast.net or www.pennwriters.com.

Sincerely,
Published Pennwriters

Book Reviews NON-FICTION

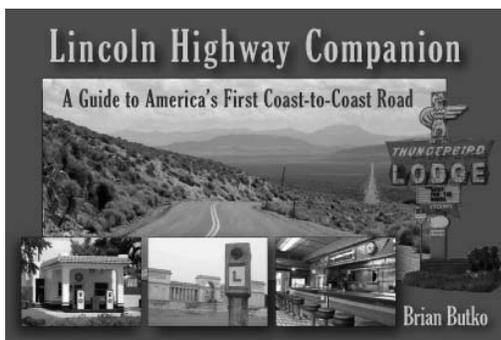
Brian Butko babutko@hswp.org

Lincoln Highway Companion,

A Guide to America's First Coast-to-Coast Road

ISBN: 978-0811735476 \$26.95 May 2009

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA



“I’m leaving the GPS in the glove compartment! Give me the Butko expertise, sparkling photos, and heartfelt suggestions on where to stop, eat, and spend the night. This book is like traveling with a bunch of old friends.”

Rick Sebak, Producer of the PBS special, *A Ride Along the Lincoln Highway*

Following the Lincoln Highway from California to New York is sometimes not too different from what pioneer motorists faced a century ago, but this glove-compartment guide offers 100 detailed maps, must-see attractions, and places to eat and sleep that are slices of pure Americana. The full-color book covers the 13 states the route passes through as well as the Colorado loop and the Washington, DC, feeder.

Shirley Brosius www.shirleybrosius.com
sbrosius@epix.net

Sisterhood of Faith: 365 Life-Changing Stories About Women Who Made a Difference

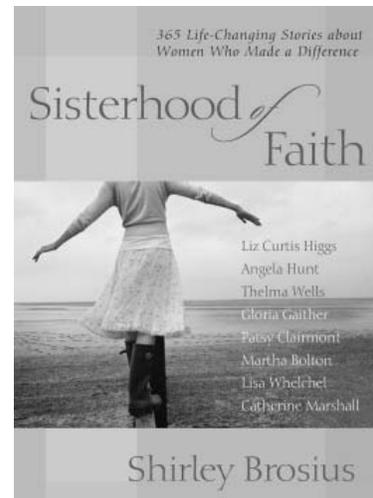
ISBN: 978-1-58229-576-3

Price: \$14.99

Publisher: Howard Books, a division of Simon & Schuster.

Published: October, 2006.

Member of Friends of the Heart, three women who share God's love through personal testimony, drama and song. Visit them at www.FriendsoftheHeart.us or www.womenspeakers.com.



They are missionaries and martyrs, teachers and preachers, traditionalists and trendsetters. Together they make up 365 inspirational profiles about the kind of women who wave a hand of dismissal at the obstacles in their paths, the kind who are unstoppable in their mission, stubborn in their resilience. Whether famous or ordinary, these women trusted God as they lived their lives in service to Him. This book goes beyond the perplexing dialogue of women's roles and simply shows what women have done for Christ. Each reading contains a scripture, a message drawn from the life of a woman and a response to challenge the reader. Be inspired, be challenged, believe that you, too, can change your world forever. *Sisterhood of Faith* includes the stories of Mary Kay Ash, Lisa Beamer, Patsy Clairmont and Elizabeth H. Dole, to name just a few. Brenda Nixon (reviewer on Amazon.com)

Do you enjoy reading about women who have made a positive impact in this world and in the lives of those around them? In *Sisterhood of Faith*, Shirley Brosius has compiled hundreds of interesting anecdotes about inspiring women. It's obvious when you read the rich content that Brosius spent many hours doing meticulous research.

With 365 stories, this book can be used as a daily devotional, or any time you need a quick pick-me-up. Each page has a dramatic profile and concludes with a question to challenge the reader. Should you want to read more about a particular woman, turn to the detailed bibliography in the back of the book for more resources. I'm confident that reading about these women will inspire and motivate you. Donna Shepherd (writer, singer and speaker.)

Book Reviews FICTION

Maria V. Snyder
maria@mariavsnyder.com

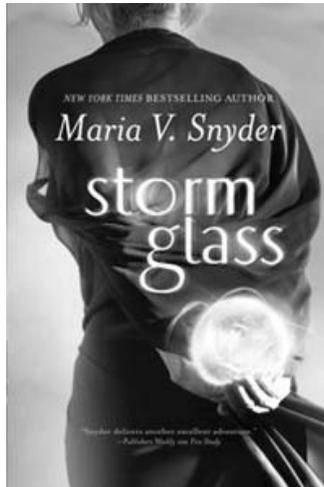
www.mariavsnyder.com
STORM GLASS

(Glass Book 1)

ISBN 13:
978-0-7783-2564-2

Price \$13.95

Pub date: April 28, 2009



Publishers Weekly on Maria Snyder's *Fire Study*, *Snyder delivers another excellent adventure.*

Other books/titles still available:
Poison Study

ISBN 13: 978-0-7783-2433-1
\$13.95

Magic Study - ISBN13:
978-0-7783-2392-1 \$13.95

Fire Study - ISBN 13:
978-0-7783-2534-5 \$13.95

As a glassmaker and a magician-in-training, Opal Cowen understands trial by fire. Now it's time to test her mettle. Someone has sabotaged the Stormdancer clan's glass orbs, killing their most powerful magicians. The Stormdancers—particularly the mysterious and mercurial Kade—require Opal's unique talents to prevent it happening again. But when the mission goes awry, Opal must tap into a new kind of magic as stunningly potent as it is frightening. And the further she delves into the intrigue behind the glass and magic, the more distorted things appear. With lives hanging in the balance—including her own—Opal must control powers she never knew she possessed...powers that might lead to disaster beyond anything she's ever known.

MURDER ON WAVERLY PLACE

By Victoria Thompson

Berkley PrimeCrime, June 2009

\$24.99

vestinpa@aol.com

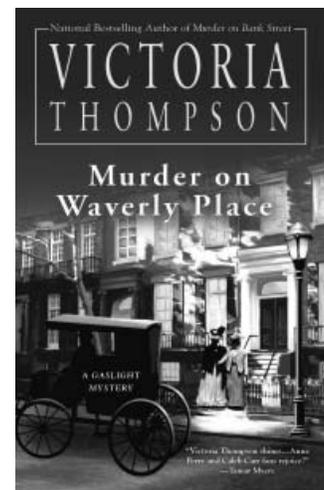
ISBN-10: 0425227758 & ISBN-13: 978-0425227756

The Eleventh book in the Edgar® nominated Gaslight Mystery series finds midwife Sarah Brandt and police detective Frank Malloy involved with a beautiful spiritualist who has Sarah's mother under her spell. When someone turns up dead at one of the spiritualist's séances, Frank and Sarah must figure out if the answers lie in this world or the next.

Victoria Thompson is available for book signings.

Contact her through her website at

www.victoriathompson.com.



"Thy Kingdom Come is a scary, prescient thriller that confronts us all with the very real possibility of an attack from the inside instead of the out. Don Helin's taut tale of one brave man confronting white supremacists with plans to outdo 9/11 is reminiscent of the best work of Stephen Hunter and Vince Flynn. Terrific in all respects."

Jon Land, best selling author of *The Seven Sins*.

Don Helin
THY KINGDOM COME
ISBN: 978-193383697-3
Medallion Press
\$7.95. March 2009

Most Americans believe the threat from local white supremacists ended with the death of Timothy McVeigh. The Southern Poverty Law Center, however, continues to document significant increases in hate crimes. Many



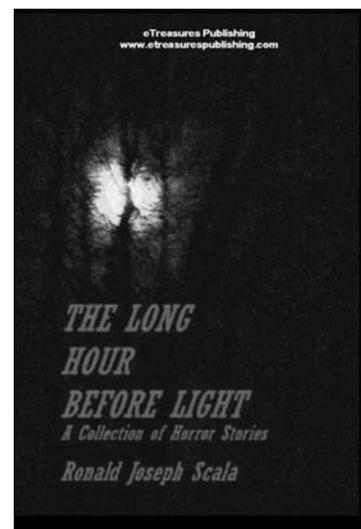
of our most sensitive areas, including nuclear plants, lack adequate security, and the nightmare of an armed militia stealing nuclear materials is real. Enter Colonel Sam Thorpe, a member of the anti-terrorist task force to go undercover and train "The Patriots" a homegrown militia in central Pennsylvania.

His job: Get close to self-appointed general Quentin Oliver and uncover the core of evil. And evil is what he finds. Oliver, a disgruntled ex-Marine colonel plans to steal cesium-137 from a local university and construct seven dirty bombs. During training sessions, Sam uncovers a link between Oliver and the French Separatist

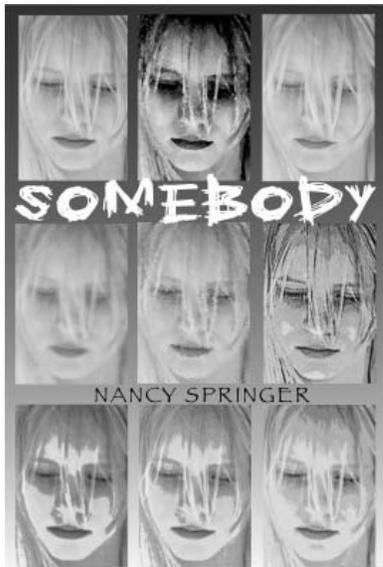
Movement in Quebec. The world is in trouble, and Sam is isolated with only one person in his corner: FBI covert agent Alex Prescott, a kick-ass woman with spiked blond hair and a personality to match. Will she be enough? Or is the world about to realize its worst nightmare.

Ronald Joseph Scala
THE LONG HOUR BEFORE LIGHT
ISBN: 978-1-60702-637-2
Print Publication 10/1/2008
\$15.00

Dare to venture into darkness. Dare to step into the unknown. If you have the courage, you will find horrors beyond your imagination. In this nightmare world you will find punishment doled out from the grave, an art gallery whose painted horrors call out to you, and a portal to the fires of perdition. You will meet Old Gods who crave human flesh and a succubus witch in a fairytale of lust and degeneration. You will visit terrifying forests where the greenery hungers and an old barn where those familiar by day become monsters at night. Dare to read *The Long Hour Before Light*, a collection of the most terrifying short stories yet from author Ronald Joseph Scala. Now available on AMAZON.



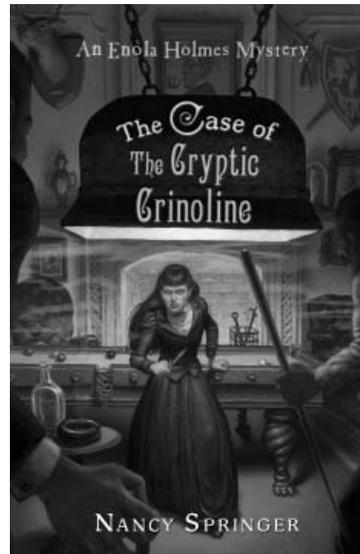
Ron's Den: <http://www.authorsden.com/ronaldjscala>



Nancy Springer
SOMEBODY
ISBN: 978-0-8234-2099-5
Holiday House
\$16.95 April 2009

For a long time now she's been suspicious. Her life-moving around the country with her father and brother, changing names and hair color with every move-just isn't normal. Tentatively at first, almost afraid of what she might find, but with growing determination, the girl investigates, beginning with her own real name-Sherica Suloff-and uncovers the shocking truth about her past. A gripping and suspenseful novel about a troubled teenage girl whose search for the secret behind her unconventional life leads to a stunning discovery.

Two-time Edgar Allen Poe Award winner Nancy Springer has received numerous other honors for her work including the International Reading Association and the American Library Association awards. Springer can be contacted via her web page, www.nancyspringer.net



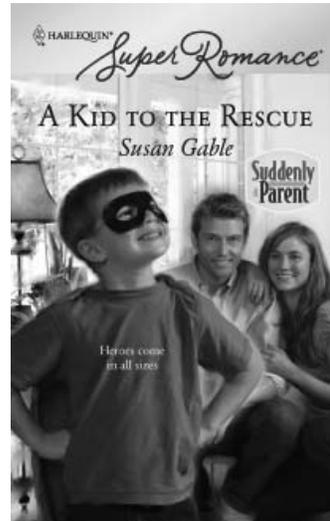
Nancy Springer
THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC
CRINOLINE: AN ENOLA HOLMES
MYSTERY
ISBN 798-0-399-24781-1
Philomel Books, a division of Penguin
Young Readers Group
\$14.99 May 2009

For Enola Holmes, ever on the run from her famous brothers, the loneliness of her London days is relieved only by her landlady, Mrs. Tupper. Although nearly deaf and a dreadful cook, the elderly woman is kind-really the closest thing to family Enola has these days-so it is a horrible when she comes home to find Mrs. Tupper kidnapped! Who would abduct the poor old soul, and why? In pursuit of answers to these questions, Enola finds herself caught up in political intrigue and desperate to confront Florence Nightingale, of all people. What on earth has Mrs. Tupper got herself into? But no matter what the risks, Enola will not rest until Mrs. Tupper is safe. And the not-so-noble aristocrats who seized her had better watch out, because his time, it's personal.

THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE is Nancy Springer's FIFTIETH published book.

Susan Gable
Susan@susangable.com
www.SusanGable.com

***A Kid to the Rescue* by Susan Gable**
Harlequin Superromance #1545
ISBN-13: 978-0-373-71545-9
February 2009
\$5.50
Also available in Large Print Edition



You can't lose what you don't try to keep...Shannon Vanderhoff learned early that everything in life is fleeting. That's why she won't let herself get attached to anything. Or anyone. Not the traumatized little boy in her care. And definitely not art therapist Greg Hawkins, who seems as determined to care for her as he is to heal her nephew. Like a character from one of his comic books, Greg has swooped in to their rescue, empowering the child...and loving the woman. But it takes the two of them to turn the boy's life around. And it takes a kid with special powers all his own to create a loving family.

“Emotionally charged scenes and a terrific plot make this novel a must read. Gable’s writing is clever, and the emotions she portrays are exceptionally realistic.” – 4.5 Stars, Top Pick – Alexandra Kay, *Romantic Times BOOKreviews Magazine*

“Gable gets deep into the heart...she takes a delicate subject matter...and tells the story with sensitivity and ease.” Kelley Hartsell, *Ck2s Kwips & Kritiques*

“...an absolute marvel with a colorful and complex premise.” Julie Steele

A Note to Members

From this issue onwards, all our members will receive “Pennwriters Newsletter for Booksellers” as a supplement to “The Penn Writer.” A separate colored version would be sent to the booksellers.

If you want the “Newsletter” mailed to your favorite bookstore/s, please email me the name/s and address/es. Thanks.

Your suggestions are always welcome. I am available at
[http://m.wangu@comcast.net](mailto:m.wangu@comcast.net) and <http://www.Pennwriters.com>.

Hope to hear from you soon.
Madhu B. Wangu

Market News (cont. from Page 7)

Bloodroot Literary Magazine is holding a poetry contest. Prizes are \$200/\$100/\$50 plus three honorable mentions with winners published in their 2010 edition. Free verse only, 10-line minimum, 2-page max. Entry fee is \$15/3 poems, \$5 for each additional. Deadline: September 15. Guides online (www.bloodrootlm.com). Sub address: PO Box 322, Thetford Center VT 5075.

The First Annual Marick Press Poetry Prize Competition is open to subs till October 15. Entry fee: \$15. Winner gets \$1000 and publication of their book of poetry. Full guides online (www.marickpress.com).

An online weekly in audio form, **Pseudopod, The Sound of Horror** likes stories that are “dark and entertaining.” Editor Ben Phillips uses a wide range of horror fiction, 6000-wd max, but isn’t into standard vampire, zombie, werewolf stuff. Pay

(on acceptance) is \$20 (under 2000 wds), \$50 (over 2000). Accepts subs by e-mail (editor@pseudopod.org). Guides at <http://pseudopod.org>.

The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction is now published bimonthly.

The Lena-Miles Wever Todd Poetry Book Competition is open to all writers, regardless of publishing experience. Send one copy of a complete poetry book ms. (at least 48 pages), postmarked no later than October 1. Enclose two cover sheets—one with your contact info, one listing only the book’s title (for anonymous judging). Include acknowledgement sheet for any previously published poems. Also: SASE and \$20 entry fee. Winner gets \$1000 and publication in paperback in 2010 by the sponsoring lit mag (Pleiades Press). Subs to LMWT Poetry Series, c/o Department of English, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg MO 64093.

Tea, A Magazine is a quarterly “all about tea, both as a drink and for its cultural significance.” Lengths for fiction, nonfiction and poetry not given and pay amount (on pub) is negotiable. Writer guidelines by e-mail (teamag@teamag.com). The mail address is c/o Olde English Tea Company, Inc., 3 Devotion Rd., PO Box 348, Scotland CT 06264. The contact person is Jobina Miller, assistant to the editor.

Women’s Project and Productions looks for full-length stage plays written by women. They produce 3 plays/year on a Professional Off-Broadway basis. See their Web site (www.womensproject.org).

Kensington Books has a new address as of February 16: 119 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018.

More shakeups at **HarperCollins** this week: The Collins imprint (nonfiction)

is being shut down and the various projects there being rolled into the Harper Division. The Avon trade paperback line will become part of the Harper Perennial and Harper paperback section, overseen by Carrier Kania, senior VP and publisher. Liate Stehlik has been promoted to senior VP, publisher of William Morrow/Eos/Avon. She will be in charge of Avon and Harper mass market titles. Mary Ellen O’Neill is joining this group as VP, executive editor. And finally, the children’s book group will be moving its offices back to HarperCollins’s main building on West 53rd Street.

Clarkesworld Magazine is an online publication that features fantasy, science fiction, and horror stories 1000 to 4000 words. Payment is 10 cents a word. <http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/submissions/>

Delacorte Books for Young Readers announces its **Eighteenth Annual Delacorte Yearling Contest for a First Middle Grade Novel**. First prize is a book contract with a \$7500 advance against royalties, plus a \$1500 cash award. U.S. and Canadian authors who have not previously published a novel for middle-grade readers may enter manuscript of 96 to 160 typewritten pages. Manuscripts must be postmarked between April 1 and June 30. Details at www.randomhouse.com/kids/writingcontests/

Alloy Entertainment, the company behind the *Gossip Girls* and *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, is looking for new writers and new ideas for a program they’ve dubbed The Collaborative. According to their Web site “Our team will lend creative expertise, marketing capabilities and the AE brand to authors with solid concepts and strong voices. Acquired projects will be shaped by

Area 5 Report

by Walt Honsinger

Area 5 Representative

It’s finally spring and things are blossoming here. Several Area 5 writers have work that should be out soon. Books, short stories, and articles are being published. Our authors have book signings, events and even radio shows scheduled. Our critique groups are going strong and at each meeting new authors show up.

It seems that each week someone asks about the upcoming conference. I’m really excited about it. The line-up looks good, and the classes sound interesting.

The local writing groups we currently show are in Lancaster, York, Bainbridge, Camp Hill, Harrisburg, Pottsville and Carlisle.

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

See Market News, Page 15

Market News *(cont. from Page 14)*

The Collaborative, before ultimately being submitted to publishers. AE will retain rights to produce each property in film, television and new media.

Authors will share in profits, across all platforms.” The Collaborative is looking to acquire up to 12 partial or completed manuscripts. They are interested in women’s fiction, young adult, middle grade and chapter books. They will accept queries from unagented as well as agented writers. More information available at www.alloyentertainment.com/. (Follow the links for The Collaborative.)

Simon & Schuster and Cheerios Cereal is sponsoring its **third annual New Author Contest for previously unpublished authors of children’s books**. Entries are being accepted through July 15 and the winner will be announced in March 2010. There is no cost to enter. The Grand Prize is \$5000, with two first prizes of \$1000 each. Submit an original story for children ages 3-8. The contest is open to any United States resident who is age 18 or older who has never received payment for a work of fiction in any format. Find the complete rules at www.spoonfulsofstoriescontest.com

Guests *(cont. from Page 16)*

you and show your appreciation and support of our published members and guests by BUYING BOOKS. Then ask the author to sign it for you. After all, you’ll want Pennwriters members to do the same for you once YOU get published, right?

The Beach Party! Join us Saturday evening for a beach-themed party that will include hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar along with door prizes and music. Dress in casual attire: Bermuda shorts, Hawaiian shirts, flip-flops (no Speedos, PLEASE). And mingle with new and old friends. It’s a chance

SunDrop, a new fiction imprint of New Concord Press (EGPG), is preparing to publish two anthologies: fall 2009 and early winter 2010. These themed anthologies will contain six stories each and be published in trade paperback, e-book, and Kindle formats. Seasons of Romance: Winter Love (a SunDrop Sunbeam) In the chill of winter, nothing beats curling up with a great romance! And winter has its advantages too for providing backgrounds and situations that beg for love to bloom. Stories can be in any era, any place, and any subgenre (except young adult and erotic romance). Wander Lust: Erotic Romance in All the Best Places (a SunDrop Scorcher) Nothing loosens the inhibitions like a trip to a far-away romantic spot. Any era, any place, anything goes, just be sure to carefully read the submission guidelines. Visit www.newconcordpress.com then scroll down to SunDrop.

[Info this time courtesy 2009 Novel & Short Story Writer’s Market (Writer’s Digest Books), The Writer (Kalmbach Publishing Co.), Poets & Writers Magazine (Poets & Writers, Inc.), 2009 Writer’s Market (Writer’s Digest Books), the ever-dependable Martha Johnson and my inquiries.]

to chat with the visiting agents and editors in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The Hospitality Suite. Any time you feel overwhelmed by the flood of information rushing into your brain, take a break and stop by the Hospitality Suite. Check out Mystery Lovers Bookshop’s offerings. We’ll have Pennwriters merchandise to sell. And there’s our always popular Basket Raffle. Plus you can just sit and visit or offer to help out.

Above all, come and have fun. See you soon!

Area 6 Report

by Jade Blackwater
Area 6 Representative

Salutations Area 6 Members!

It has been my pleasure to support you as your Area 6 Representative, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your participation, support, and encouragement during my term.

Our current candidate for the new Area 6 Representative is Robert Michalsky. To learn more about Robert, be sure to check out his interview at our Area 6 blog (<http://pennwritersarea6.wordpress.com/2009/03/18/intrigue-and-insight-with-robert-michalsky/>).

Area 6 has grown tremendously during the past 12 months both in numbers and activity. Now is the perfect time to speak up and let us know what YOU want from Pennwriters. Whether you’re looking for a workshop to develop your writing, or a local event to connect you with writers in your region, please contact me to voice your opinion and volunteer.

As you know, we have many active Critique Groups in southeastern Pennsylvania, and I am happy to announce new opportunities in the Area 6 region: the Center City group launches as of April, and we have new members in Quakertown and Collegeville who are ready and eager to coordinate Pennwriters activities in their areas. To get involved with a Pennwriters Critique Group, or to launch one in your area, please contact me.

Once again, it has been an honor to support your writing goals, and I look forward to our continued collaborations in the future.

Happy writing,

Contact Jade at 206-604-5099;
jadeblackwater@brainripples.com

The Penn Writer
1800 Eastern Ave.
Erie, PA 16510

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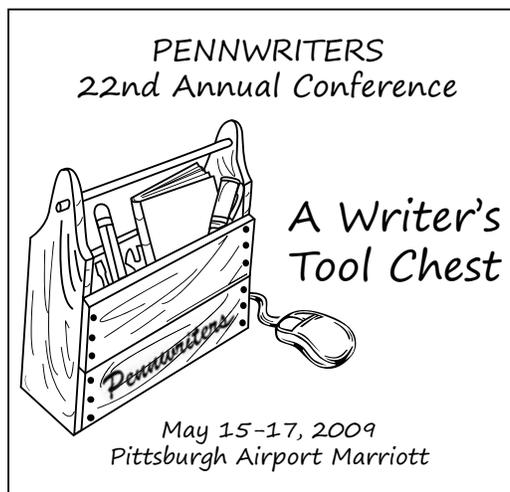
Conference Chatter Special Guest to Attend Conference 2009

by Annette Dashofy, Area 3, 2009 Conference Coordinator

It's here! It's really here! After almost two years of my planning and panicking and sweating and swearing, the 2009 Pennwriters Conference is about to begin. The fact is: in order to meet *The Penn Writer* deadline, as I'm writing this, there are still 43 days to go, but who's counting? By the time you read this, I'll be counting hours instead of days.

For months I've been chattering about the speakers. By now, I hope you know who Lisa Scottoline is (Friday's keynote, New York Times Best Seller) and which workshops you plan to attend. With only days to go, let me tell you about some of the other activities we have planned.

Friday's Networking Lunch. If you aren't attending the Published Penns' shindig on Friday, join the rest of us for a casual networking get-together in the Hospitality Suite. Even



if you didn't order one of the available box lunches, feel free to drop by and hang out.

Author's Tea and Book Signing. Mike Crawmer will be hosting this event which includes some sweet treats and interviews with the authors. Get to know your favorite writer a little better. And while you're at it, **BUY BOOKS!!!** Pennwriters has earned a rather unsavory reputation for its conference goes NOT supporting the authors who share their wisdom and expertise with us by teaching the workshops or participating in the panels. I would love to see this year's conference bring an end to that reputation. Mystery Lovers Bookshop will be offering a wonderful selection of books (both fiction and nonfiction) for sale in the Hospitality Suite. Make sure you bring your cash or plastic with

See Guests, Page 15

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 secretary Shelley Giusti at cricketgirl133@yahoo.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 July-August 2009 issue is June 1. The theme is "Reflecting." The theme for the Sept-Oct. issue is "The Business Side of Writing." We hope to hear from you!