The Two Keys to Networking

by Heather Desuta, Area 1, Editor

About 10 years ago, I decided to take a break from traditional employment and try to carve out a career as a freelance writer and graphic designer. I had worked a series of public relations, writing and publications jobs, and I was hoping that my network of friends and professional contacts would provide some leads. Before my last day, I “lucked into” a steady, lucrative, freelance design gig that lasted more than eight years. Honestly, it was mostly luck and good timing, but networking was the key. A former coworker had started a new job—one with a long-to-do list—and asked if I was interested in taking on a few projects that she couldn’t fit into her juggling act. That friend ended up overseeing my work for a year or two, until she moved on, and I continued freelancing for her successor, and then the successor’s successor. Eight years worth of projects—all stemming from the friendly relationship I had with a former colleague.

Knowing the right people is often the key to getting ahead, getting a job or getting a tip that moves your work along. Know what the other key is? BEING the right person—a person who is interested in what people have to say, open to learning and eager to share his or her own knowledge with others. Successful networking depends on reciprocation: How can you get help? How can you help others? In the end, you get what you give.

On the getting side—Pennwriters has some great events coming up where you can get valuable advice and build your networks. Choices and Challenges of Modern Publishing (see pg. 4) will bring you into contact with savvy pros who'll share their insights for today’s writers. This one-day event will feature speakers Jane Friedman, publishing guru and former publisher of Writer's Digest magazine, and CJ Lyons, who currently holds five spots on NY Times bestseller lists. The panelists include three award-winning, multi-published, multi-genre authors whose combined published books well exceed 100. Networking opportunities also exist for Novel in a Nutshell (pg. 7) and the next PW Online Course: Self-Editing (pg. 10).

On the giving side—make helpfulness and information-sharing a priority. If you read something about writing that your fellow Pennwriters might find useful, send a message to PW’s yahoo groups. Pass along useful tips, engage online with other writers and readers, or write an article for an upcoming issue of The Penn Writer. And—this is hardly new advice—consider volunteering for our organization. Three years ago at my first Pennwriters Conference, I struck up a conversation with Julie Long, who was co-coordinating the following year’s conference. And now, here I am, shaping each PW newsletter, helping promote member accomplishments and sharing insights with all of you. My novel’s not ready to market, but until it is, I’ll keep learning and building my network.

Let’s get connected! Email your news, book recommendations, writing tips and articles to me at thepennwriter@gmail.com.
President's Column

As a career development instructor, I encourage my students to network their way to successful careers. We writers can use the same advice and network our way to successful writing careers.

You have heard it before—it’s not just what you know, but it’s who you know. This adage applies to writers, in that being connected can have positive consequences by providing motivation and support during all the highs and lows a writing life brings.

Networking with other writers is a good way to find writers groups, online writing forums, beneficial websites, mentors, critique partners and obscure research facts. We can obtain information on agents, editors and publishers and garner endorsements, quotes and reviews for our books. Keep in mind that networking is a two-way street. Always give back, and be sure to show your appreciation for help you are given.

There are lots of ways to connect with other writers, especially with today’s technology.

Join writers’ organizations and become an active member by attending regular meetings and contributing your time and talents to the group. Serve on committees and boards, volunteer to help at conferences, teach a workshop and write articles for the organizations’ newsletters. (Pennwriters can always use volunteers and board members. Please contact your Area rep to learn how you can support the organization.)

Exchange business cards at writing events and maintain email contacts. Assemble a contact list that will be mutually beneficial to you and those on the list.

Find a critique partner and hold each other accountable for regularly making time to write and submit work for critiquing. Contribute to the partnership as much as or more than you receive.

Take or teach a writing course or workshop. What do you need to learn about writing? What knowledge do you have to share with others? Are you an expert in a particular field or do you need to connect with an expert?

Create and maintain a blog or be a guest blogger. Share writing information and experiences, and welcome comments from other writers.

Interact online. Maintain a presence on social networking sites by being engaging and helpful. Observe what is being said online, and share useful information. Give more than you take away from social networking sites. Communication is key. Be sure to join Pennwriters on Facebook and Twitter.
Board News

The ballots for the proposal to change the membership renewal date have been counted. The proposal passed, with 66 in favor of the revisions and one opposed. Please consult last month’s newsletter for exact details. Having the first of July as everyone’s membership renewal date (beginning July 2013) will save the organization time and money, as we can announce the membership renewal date in the newsletter instead of mailing individual reminders throughout the year. Thanks again for your help with this change.

Areas 2 and 3 are putting on fall and winter events. Please look for information in the newsletter or contact your Area reps for more details.

We are pleased to announce two recently-filled Pennwriter vacant positions. Tye Tyson is the new Public Relations Chair and Candace Banks is the new Area 3 Rep who will complete the remainder of Madhu Wangu’s term.

The next board meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel in Dubois, Pa. If you have concerns or comments to pass along to the board, please email me or your Area rep.

—Carol

Pennwriters Online: Your Internet Connection

Website ........................................ www.pennwriters.org
Yahoo Group .......................... http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Pennwriters/join
Facebook ...................... “Pennwriters” and “26th Annual Pennwriters Conference”
Linkedin ....................... www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=67420
Twitter .............................. www.twitter.com/Pennwriters
Online Courses ............... http://tinyurl.com/PennwritersOnlineCourses
Meetup.com ........................ search for keyword “Pennwriters”

Contact information for Area Reps can be found in area reports within the newsletter.
DON'T MISS PENNWRIGHTS' ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

**Choices and Challenges of Modern Publishing**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012 • 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
PITTSBURGH AIRPORT MARRIOTT

You've written a book, and now it's time to send it into the world. In today's rapidly changing publishing industry, how does a writer choose the best path to publication? Do you submit to traditional publishers that distribute into bricks-and-mortar stores? Or, now that self-publishing has exploded in popularity, what are the pros and cons of DIY publishing? Should a first-time writer publish through a small regional press? Should books be printed on paper or created digitally? How will readers find your books? Can you make a living from your writing income? Pennwriters is an organization that has always steered writers in the right direction. Experts will show writers how to avoid scams and find the right place for your book.

**Featured speakers:**

**Jane Friedman**, publishing guru and former publisher of *Writer's Digest* magazine and professor of e-media, is now the editor of *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Her most recent book is *THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING: ENIGMA VARIATIONS*.

**CJ Lyons** is a former ER doc who has turned to writing suspense novels. She writes best-selling books published by a traditional New York publisher, and she has set records self-publishing, too. She currently holds 5 spots on the New York Times top 20 bestsellers list.

**Panelists:**

**Jonathan Maberry**, traditionally published award winning author in multiple fiction genres, nonfiction, comics and more, as well as e-published.

**Nancy Martin**, award-winning traditionally published & self-published mystery author.

**Susan Meier**, award-winning traditionally published romance novelist & writing teacher.

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

**Choices and Challenges of Modern Publishing**

Visit www.pennwriters.org for speaker/panelist full bios.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: __________________________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________________________________________

Pennwriters Member: ❑ Yes ❑ No __ If yes, which Area? __________

BEFORE Labor Day: ❑ Pennwriters Member: $119 ❑ Nonmember: $139

AFTER Labor Day: ❑ Pennwriters Member: $139 ❑ Nonmember: $159

Cost includes all-day workshop and buffet lunch

Make checks payable to “Pennwriters, Inc.” and mail to: Jackie Shaffmaster, Pennwriters Treasurer 406 Second Street Dalton, PA 18414

Online registration with check or PayPal options available at www.pennwriters.org
Area 7 Jade Leone Blackwater’s poem “Overheard From a Window Seat” will appear in issue 8 of THE MONONGAHELA REVIEW. www.monreview.com

Doris Dumrauf, Area 3, sold an article to the Philadelphia Inquirer, published four photos in the May/June 2012 issue of Pennsylvania Magazine, and sold an article to Pennsylvania Magazine.

Area 3 Marcia Ferguson’s debut novel NORTH OF SUPPOSED TO BE is now available through Amazon in paperback and e-book form. Bronwyn McCall, an elite portrait photographer, is critically wounded while rescuing the sons of the Israeli prime minister. As she recovers, former MI6 agent Ernest Rose enters her life and becomes her Jeeves, both faithful sidekick and father figure. With gratitude, the prime minister’s family gives her their coastal Maine estate and the abandoned Bayside Blanket and Toboggan Factory, but it takes a massive fortune, acquired in the most bizarre manner, to launch second chances and the dream homes of her imagination.

Heidi Ruby Miller, Area 3, became the head editor for Dog Star Books, a new Science Fiction imprint of Raw Dog Screaming Press. The first books in the line will launch in Summer 2013, including a novel by Pennwriter S.A. Check.

S.A. Check.

In other news, affiliates of Seton Hill University were part of the charity anthology HAZARD YET FORWARD. (Matt and Natalie Duvall,


Area 2 Sharon Saracino’s first novel DEATH BENEFITS is slated for May 2013 publication by Whiskey Creek Press. For more information, visit sharonsaracino.com. Max Logan has grown progressively more bitter, sarcastic and solitary since her divorce and feels as though she has spent a lifetime getting the short end of the stick. Of course, it’s hard to cultivate optimism when she finds herself dead, the victim of a D.I.E (Death in Error) caused by an overeager Grim Reaper in Training. She brokers a deal to be sent back to Earth as a temporary substitute for the Superintendent of Spiritual Impediment. Can a girl who can’t recognize her own problems rectify the issues of the living impaired? Or will she discover that concentrating on their issues gives a new perspective on her own?

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS! Email thepennwriter@gmail.com or call 412-337-6966. Be sure to type “PENN WRITER SUBMISSION” in the subject line of your message, and include your Area number. Thanks!

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS! Email thepennwriter@gmail.com or call 412-337-6966. Be sure to type “PENN WRITER SUBMISSION” in the subject line of your message, and include your Area number. Thanks!

-George Bernard Shaw

If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.

If people don’t buy your books or visit your website right away, don’t get overly upset. Keep these marketing points in mind:

- Marketing is cumulative and requires repeated exposures. Sales momentum takes time to generate. This is among the reasons why publishers do pre-publication marketing, producers promote movies months before their premieres and businesses hang “Opening Soon” signs before opening day. Interested audiences may not be in purchase mode the first time their awareness of you registers.

- Generally it takes more than six exposures before a promotion fully registers in a customer’s mind. That’s the marketing tipping point. Diversify by being in six different places online and offline to reduce these six degrees of separation between you and your future audiences, making closer connections with them so you’ll no longer seem like a stranger.

- from Strategic Marketing Made Easy For Writers: Optimize Your Promotions For Bestseller Results by Nate Hardy, Area 6. www.PlusSignProductions.org
Area 1
Todd Main • Area 1 Representative
814-459-8752 • todd_main@steris.com

Meadville Vicinity Pennwriters (MVP)
WHEN: 1st Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: The Tellers Row Coffee Bar
@ the bank, Meadville
CONTACT: Catherine McLean,
catherinemclean@windstream.net

WHEN: 1st Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: United Methodist Church, Edinboro
CONTACT: Jan Brawn, jbrawn@coaxpa.com

WHEN: 2nd Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: Tom Ridge Environmental Center,
301 Peninsula Drive, Presque Isle
CONTACT: Todd Main, todd_main@steris.com

WHEN: 3rd Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: Community Library of Shenango Valley
CONTACT: Catherine McLean,
catherinemclean@windstream.net

Shenango Valley Pennwriters (SVP)
WHEN: 3rd Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: Community Center of Shenango Valley
CONTACT: Catherine McLean,
catherinemclean@windstream.net

WHEN: 4th Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
WHERE: Barnes & Noble, near the
Millcreek Mall, Erie
CONTACT: Dave Szymanowski,
daveszy@verizon.net

Fellowship of the Quill (FOTQ)
WHEN: Every Thursday, 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: Tim Horton’s, 2565 West 12th, Erie
CONTACT: Todd Main, todd_main@steris.com

Everyone should have one or more strong networks. Simply put, a network is a system of connections, relationships, groups or social circles. They can be general or specific, face-to-face or online. Networks provide information and support, offer guidance and protection, and serve as a buffer against stress—providing bonding, love and a sense of belonging. We all want to feel valued.

In my field of mental health, a network is viewed as a support system. Networks allow us to cope better with life’s ups and downs. Relationships impact one’s health, and positive ones result in greater satisfaction, happiness and improved quality of life. Good networks, whether business or social, are mutually beneficial—all participants contribute and help each other so everyone gains something from the interaction. Dale Carnegie’s popular book, HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE, is a great resource on how to create strong and effective networks.

There are different types of networks: family, friends, coworkers, church members, community groups and business contacts. Specifically for writers, there are a variety of writers’ organizations (such as Pennwriters), book clubs, online writers’ forums, blogs and LinkedIn, to name a few. The ones you choose to join will depend on your interests, goals and availability.

On a personal level, I have found Pennwriters to be a valuable resource. Martha Johnson introduced me to Pennwriters several years ago at a women’s conference session. As a result of my affiliation with this group, I’ve met many wonderful writers, improved my craft and published my first paid article several years ago. Thanks, Marti and the other Pennwriters who have helped me along on my journey!

Writers represent a range of personality types, but many are introverted (including myself) and may find it difficult at first to reach out to others. There can be an initial fear of getting out and meeting people. Writing is often a solitary task, so the value of belonging to good networks is even more important. Take a risk. Introduce yourself. Join a group. Learn something new. These actions will enrich your life and result in personal and professional growth.

Your increased connections and life experiences will have benefits for your writing, as well. You will have more ideas to write about and more authentic and deeper content, which will allow for better connections with your readers. The result? A more successful writing career.

Just as with your writing, you can set goals for networking. For example, plan to attend a writing conference, take a class or find a mentor. Networking is a process that takes time and commitment. You need to actively develop the kinds of relationships you want. Networking can lead to useful tips, jobs and other opportunities. But you’ll never reap these rewards if you don’t make the effort.

The Benefits of Networking
by Sybil L. Holloway, Area 2

Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working. - Pablo Picasso

If you want to go somewhere, it is best to find someone who has already been there.” - Robert Kiyosaki
As you can see, networking has many benefits. We’re all in the Pennwriters network. Now continue to go out and make other connections that will enhance your writing life. And, be sure to share your successes with us!

Sybil L. Holloway, a PW member since 2001, is a psychologist and writer living in Bloomsburg. She writes nonfiction (self-help, mental health and psychology) and poetry. She has published several magazine and newspaper articles and has won Writer’s Digest awards for her poetry. Many of these pieces appear on her website, www.sybilholloway.com.

Book Review
by Shirley Brosius, Area 5

AN INVISIBLE THREAD: THE TRUE STORY OF AN 11-YEAR-OLD PANHANDLER, A BUSY SALES EXECUTIVE AND AN UNLIKELY MEETING WITH DESTINY by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski tells the amazing story of a woman who befriends a child named Maurice. After he begs her for a handout on a New York City street corner, the two become friends. That relationship takes them—and us as readers—on a journey through wide-open spaces and dark tunnels. Just when you think you know what lies around the next corner, surprises pop up to keep you flipping those pages. As Schroff shares her story, she reflects on her background and confronts issues in her own life. Regardless of your lot in society, you’ll meet people who live quite differently from you, and this book will help you embrace such moments. You’ll learn about facing adversity with courage and heartache with determination. You’ll also come to understand that things are not always as they seem. AN INVISIBLE THREAD will inspire you to become all you were meant to be. The book ends with a poignant letter from Maurice and an insightful dialogue with Laura. In my opinion, a wonderful 5-star read.
(Published by Howard Books, November 2011)

Pennwriters Area 2 Workshop: Novel in a Nutshell
Saturday, October 6, 2012
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Bloomsburg Fire Hall, 911 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA

Writing a novel isn’t merely a matter of having a good plot or great characters. A novel is the perfect combination of plot, characters, conflict and voice. Join multi-published authors Martha Johnson and Susan Meier in a day-long workshop where they teach the methods and tools they have used to write some of the best novels in their genres.

PLEASE PRINT
Name: ____________________________________________________________
Street Address: ___________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: _______________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Pennwriters Member: □ Yes □ No ___ If yes, which Area? _________
Cost: Members: $45 Nonmember: $55 Box lunch included.

Mail registration form and check (payable to Pennwriters, Inc.) to Paula Matter, 1115 Pearl Blvd., Montoursville, PA 17754

Questions? Contact Paula at pjmatter@gmail.com.
Managing Your Email Inbox
by Joyce Wilde, Area 3

Managing email can be a daunting task. These eight steps will get your email organized and keep it that way.

**Step 1. Build time into your schedule to process email.**
The key is to be proactive. Ideally, process emails on a daily basis to stay current. Once you’ve read and reduced the emails in your inbox, there should be two categories: those you’ll respond to immediately or soon, and those that require more thought and future response. **Tip:** Email is most effectively managed when you can focus your complete attention on the task.

**Step 2. Scan and delete down to “actionable” items.**
Quickly scan the emails as they arrive. Ask yourself, “Will I need this later?” If not, hit delete. Reducing your inbox to actionable items gives you an up-to-date to-do list and allows you to engage in more “conscious living.” You can make well informed decisions about what you want to respond to, rather than missing things by default or reacting to them at the last minute. **Tip:** Ideally, reduce your inbox to about two-dozen emails.

**Step 3. Respond immediately when you can.**
Make it a habit to reply immediately to messages that can be processed quickly and to those that require a timely response. If you don’t have time to compose a more thoughtful response, take a moment to communicate that you’ll be in touch when you have time to respond more fully.

**Tip 1:** When you need to reply to someone a second time, or the information is time sensitive, flag the email to remind yourself. **Tip 2:** Change the subject title to match the content when you reply. This is not something that needs done with each email, however, if you do it on a fairly regular basis, when you need to find an email later, this will help facilitate the process.

**Step 4. Record events on your calendar.**
As you scan and reply (or forward), immediately record events on your calendar. Don’t try to hold event details in your head with the idea that you’ll record them later. That creates stress. After recording the future event, print the email if necessary, then remove the email from your inbox.

**Step 5. Create and use folders for reference.**
If you believe you will need an email for reference—for example, an event you just scheduled on your calendar—move it out of your inbox and into an aptly-named folder. Create folders using the first thing you think of when characterizing the content. Don’t worry about the name of the folders making sense to other people. Unless someone else uses your email and you need to be in sync, name folders in a way that makes sense to you. Subfolders are useful as a way to keep things organized.
Step 6: Unsubscribe from unnecessary lists and engage in “bulk decluttering.”
Opt out or change your subscriptions to e-newsletters, etc., that you no longer find valuable. If you have hundreds or thousands of unopened and unprocessed emails, the best strategy is to schedule a block of uninterrupted time when you can focus on bulk decluttering. Group incoming emails by category. This small investment in time can save a lot of time and energy. *Tip:* If it’s a hardship for you to work through your email inbox, reward yourself for your effort in some healthy way.

Step 7: Create separate emails for business and personal use.
Pay attention to keeping good boundaries between work and home. Creating separate emails is effective, but don’t create more than a few, or it will become difficult to keep up with them all.

Step 8: Visit your inbox regularly and keep it up to date.
Always ask yourself, “Will I want to take an action on this email later?” Examples of actions you may take are reading more fully, replying, forwarding, downloading or scheduling future activities. Don’t overlook the importance of the “ponder factor”—sometimes things will need to sit in your inbox as you decide how to proceed. That’s okay. As you engage in this process, pay attention to how you feel. If you are lacking energy, time and focus, your productivity will decrease, and you’ll have diminishing returns.

Choosing to implement these steps in your life on a regular basis will allow email to be a positive and productive tool in your life, rather than a source of frustration.

And, some final tips regarding manners

- Manners are timeless—not old fashioned—and even though we live in an electronic age, it doesn’t mean manners should be abandoned. On the contrary, as a result of the increase in the use of technology, we would all benefit from a little more attention to “good form.”

- If you’re corresponding with someone for the first time, or haven’t corresponded in a while, use “pleasantries,” otherwise the email may feel abrupt or cold to the recipient.

- Compose a greeting that includes the recipient’s name and choose some word or phrase as a farewell. Sign it using your name or initials. This gives the email a personable flavor.

- Equate an email exchange with phone use. When you call someone, you use a greeting. When you call back multiple times, you naturally shorten the exchange to the basics.

Joyce Wilde has a master’s degree in clinical psychology and works as a freelance writer, inspirational speaker, professional organizer and transition coach. Her website and blog include information on topics like setting goals, reorganizing compulsive behaviors, organizing for success and more. Visit her online at www.joycewilde.com.
Area 6
Charli Mac • Area 6 Representative
charli-mac@comcast.net

AREA 6 BLOG:
http://pennwritersarea6.wordpress.com
The Area 6 blog is looking for articles about craft, writing life, upcoming events, etc. The Author Spotlight is now open to ALL Pennwriters, not just those in Area 6.

There are currently no Pennwriters Area 6 groups meeting, but if you are interested in forming a group, please contact me at charli-mac@comcast.net.

While this is not a Pennwriters event, it is open to the public and may be of interest:

The Liars Club presents The Writers Coffeehouse
WHEN: last Sunday of every month, noon-3 p.m.
WHERE: Barnes & Noble, Willow Grove, PA
WHAT: It's a bunch of writers sitting around talking about writing—with coffee—chatting about the latest industry trends, the craft of writing, marketing, pitching and selling, conquering frustration and defeating writers block, and all the good things that come from the community of writers. No previous publishing experience necessary...for absolute beginners to award-winners and best-sellers. We're all writers. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the meeting room beside the music section.
CONTACT: jonathan_maberry@yahoo.com, visit www.liarsclubphilly.com

Pennwriters Online Courses
by Deirdre Assenza, Area 3, Online Course Coordinator

OCTOBER 1-29, 2012—
Self-Editing
WITH SUSAN MEIER

Rejected? Can't get an agent? Can't sell, even though your critique partners love your work? Afraid to self-publish because you know your manuscript has flaws?

No manuscript is ready without thorough polishing. But polishing isn't merely about refining words and phrases, trimming sentences and paragraphs. Bigger and often overlooked mistakes could be storytelling errors and scene failures.

In Pennwriters' October online course, Self-Editing, instructor Susan Meier will help you identify problems in your work and get them into repair.

You'll learn how to "skim-read" your manuscript quickly, while marking specific problems. Susan will demonstrate how to use editing tools like storyboards, lists of twenty, color-codes and blurbs to attack and resolve any issues.

With the lessons you'll learn in Self-Editing, you'll be ready to begin your edit and polish off your opus.

Lessons include—
• You have a good story?
• Fixing a bad story
• Are scenes your problem?
• Grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph order
• Storyboarding
• Scene bugaboos
• Words and character
• Pulling it all together

Students will receive a free copy of How To Write A Pitch Paragraph.

Register now at tinyurl.com/PennwritersCourses

To learn more about this course and Susan Meier, and for more information on all Pennwriters Online Courses, visit http://tinyurl.com/PennwritersOnlineCourse.

Help Us Build Our 2013 Schedule:
Have a great course topic idea? Know someone who’d make a great teacher? Been waiting years for a class focused on your needs, or taught by your favorite local author? We want your input about courses and instructors you’d like to see in our 2013 Pennwriters Online Course year. All your suggestions are welcome! Please send ideas to Deirdre Assenza, at dpassenza@gmail.com. We thank you in advance for your help making our online courses a success!

I recently read Elin Hilderbrand’s THE CASTAWAYS. It follows three couples as they grieve over the drowning deaths of the fourth couple from their tight knit group. The novel is told from six distinct POVs. These various insights give us a well rounded look at all those affected by these tragic deaths. It also lets us see their secrets too. Kind of like “Downton Abbey” for modern-day Nantucket. This book was a quick page turner. As a writer, I loved how Hilderbrand blended these POVs flawlessly. I read as a reader for the most part, but the writer in me couldn't help but be blown away with her mastery of the craft.
-Charli Mac
Networking & the PW Conference
by Jessica Williams, Area 7, 2013 Conference Coordinator & PW Secretary

Writing is more than something we do; it’s part of who we are. Sometimes the story we write is private—something we’re not ready to share—but the majority of us share a singular goal: publication.

With the decline in the economy, people are writing more and publishing houses are buying less. The struggle for precious bookshelf space increases while our queries are lost in the slush pile. How do we break free? Networking.

We hear the term, but how many of us are actively networking? What better place to hone your networking skills than a writer’s conference? Conferences allow us to put down our pens and put ourselves out there. Networking is imperative to any career, especially a writer’s.

Attending a conference is a big expense for many of us, so why not put it to good use? Make friends, introduce yourself and socialize. Meet as many new people as you can. Say hi to an agent or editor, and strike up a conversation. If you see an agent, editor or workshop presenter at the bar (and you know you will!), offer to buy him or her a drink. Ask questions, do your research, learn their names and some bullet points from their bios. Writing is a business, and smart writers do their research—especially about who may be the perfect person to represent his or her finished manuscript. Agents and editors are people, too. Agents attend conferences to find ‘the next big thing.’ But remember, the next big thing may go unnoticed if he or she is playing wallflower, watching the industry pros and attendees build connections.

What’s another invaluable networking tool? Your ability to serve as a volunteer. Being a volunteer gives you a legitimate reason to introduce yourself. Being a Penn Pal or timekeeper can allow you to have one-on-one time with an agent, and you won’t feel like you’re imposing.

When you’re networking, socialize and be yourself. You are your best representation of your book, so get out there and represent.

To discuss volunteer opportunities for the next Pennwriters Conference, email Jessica at jesswilliams06@verizon.net.

Jessica Williams is Pennwriters’ secretary. By day she is a full-time employee, struggling single mom and lover of fiction. By night she battles plot issues, character flaws and perspective. A peek at her work can be found online at idiosyncraticheart.blogspot.com.

Area 7
Bobbi Carducci • Area 7 Representative
540-338-5064 • bcarducci@comcast.net

AREA 7 BLOG:
http://pwarea7.wordpress.com
Share your accomplishments. Submit articles on writing, announce book signings, etc. Contact me via email to submit your ideas, etc.

Baltimore Area Pennwriters
Weeks 1, 2 and 4, are for writing.
Week 3 is the critique session.
WHEN: Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Panera Bread in Golden Ring, 8640 Pulaski Highway, Rosedale, MD
CONTACT: Jess Wiliams, jesswilliams06@verizon.net

Blue Ridge Group
Meetings include critique on request, sharing resources, writing exercises and discussion. Beginning to multi-published writers welcome.
WHEN: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: Purcellville Library, Purcellville, Va.
CONTACT: Bobbi Carducci, bcarducci@comcast.net

Anyone interested in forming a group, please contact me. If you have a place to meet and a desire to spend time with fellow writers, it is possible to host a group.

Other information of interest:

Book signing possibilities in Blue Ridge Area:
• Around the Block Books, Purcellville, PA
• Second Chapter Books, Middleburg, VA
• Potomac Books, Dulles, VA

Local Groups of Interest in Blue Ridge Area:
• Loudoun County Writers Association

Whatever we possess becomes of double value when we have the opportunity of sharing it with others. -Jean-Nicolas Bouilly

The way of the world is meeting people through other people. -Robert Kerrigan

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it. -Margaret Fuller

www.pennwriters.org
Do you remember the first story you wrote?
I do, because I scared myself silly. My family lived in Milwaukee at the time, and I attended Catholic school. Every day before lunch, the nuns took us to Mass. The church was located on a street so wide it was difficult to get across before the light changed. For that reason, there was a tunnel that ran under the street. You’d go down the steps on one side and come up safely on the other side of the street. The tunnel was built of cement. The walls were decorated with all the bad words a kid could think of. Partway through the tunnel was a door that was always locked. I always wondered what was behind that door. Probably nothing more than light bulbs, brooms and other cleaning supplies. I know that now. Back then I always scurried past it, convinced I felt an evil presence. That tunnel and locked door formed the basis for my first story. In it, an evil predator lived there, and every so often he would grab a reluctant churchgoer on her way to afternoon Mass and make her his slave. After writing that story, I always took my chances with the cars and the quick-changing traffic light and crossed the street above ground.

When did you first start writing?
I started writing when I was eight years old. I fell in love with reading as soon as letters on the page came together to make words. I’d go to the library as often as I could and carry home as many books as they’d allow me to take out. Then I’d find a quiet spot under a tree or on the porch and start reading. I loved the way the stories flowed and the characters came to life. I started paying attention to the words and phrases and characters I liked best. I wondered how the author remembered all the words to the story and how long it took to write them down. I often thought about writing a story, but I couldn’t quite convince myself I could do it. Then one rainy afternoon, my best friend’s mother got tired of listening to us giggling and running through the house, and she ordered us to be quiet. “Here’s some paper and pencils. Sit down and write something,” she said. I remember staring at that blank sheet of paper thinking I was doomed to sit there forever. What could I possibly write about? Then, after what seemed like a very long time, an idea came to me, and the words started to flow onto the page. I could hardly get them down fast enough. Later that day, my friend’s mom handed me my story and said, “This is good. You should continue writing.” Being an obedient child, I did as I was told, and I’m still doing it.

Why did you join Pennwriters?
I joined Pennwriters after attending a writing workshop in Monroeville taught by Lorraine Henderson and Susan Meier. I came away inspired and encouraged by both of them, and I still feel that way. When Lorraine encouraged us to consider writing for romance magazines and agreed to review a story prior to submission, I decided to take her up on her offer. It took a few tries before I got it right, but the first story I ever published appeared in True Story magazine thanks to Lorraine Henderson and Pennwriters.

When did you start to consider yourself a writer?
That first sale encouraged me, but it wasn’t until I sold a few more short stories and began writing a regular column for a local newspaper that I actually said it out loud. I was
Have any advice for new Pennwriters members?
Get on the message boards and e-loops and interact with the members. Attend the workshops and take the offered online courses. Go to the annual conference! Most of all, I encourage members to volunteer where possible. As a volunteer, I’ve had the opportunity to meet bestselling authors, agents, editors, book sellers, aspiring authors like myself, and some of the most generous and giving people I’ve ever known. If you are serious about writing, Pennwriters is an organization that can help you achieve your goals. I have so many good friends within the organization, and I’ve learned so much from each one. I believe that writers should never pass up an opportunity to help other writers. The more we help one another, the more good writing will be out there. The more good writing out there, the more people will read. The more people read, the more markets there will be for all of us. Pass it on.

Let’s end the Q&A with five random favorites...

Bobbi’s Favorite Quote:
“There are many who hear voices when no one is there. Some are called mad and are locked up in rooms where they stare at the walls all day. Others are called writers and they do pretty much the same thing.”
-Meg Chittenden

Favorite Movie:
“Flashdance” (First... when there's nothing... but a slooooow blooming dream...)

Favorite Book:
GODS IN ALABAMA by Joshilyn Jackson

Favorite Drink:
Vodka martini, up, with extra olives

Favorite Meal:
Fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn on the cob dripping with butter. Homemade biscuits, also dripping with butter. Ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert. All washed down with an ice cold classic coke. Although I don’t eat like that anymore, I’m old enough to remember when a hearty meal like that was considered healthy but young enough to wish I could eat it without guilt today.

And that’s your PW exclusive interview with Bobbi Carducci! Read an extended version online at pennwriters.org, including Bobbi’s journey with Storee Wryter. And, be sure to check our next issue for more 2013 conference exclusives!
Networking is pretty much vital to the modern working writer’s success. One thing all those contacts can provide is the inside scoop on topics, such as who’s buying what. Accordingly, I hope this column serves you well, as one component in all of your own personal networks...

A small, fairly new publisher of books for children ages 5 and up, including the teen and YA markets, Diamond Heart Press, uses fiction from 7,500 to 120,000 words. They offer advances against royalties and their guidelines are, of course, on their website: diamondheartpress.com.

Backpacker is a magazine mainly for the wilderness hiker in North America. Their needs include pieces on destinations, gear, personalities and techniques. They also use a few nonfiction articles on somewhat related topics like kayaking, canoeing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and the like. They put out 9 issues/yr. and use short entries in various departments, as well as feature articles. Their address is 2520 55th St., Ste. 210, Boulder, CO 80301, but e-queries are preferred. Check website for addresses of specific editors. Guides are online at backpacker.com.

Logically enough, E—the Environmental Magazine focuses on environmental/ecological concerns. They want articles on current issues, philosophies, trends and the relationship between society and the environment. It’s a bimonthly, and they like pieces that offer ways to get involved constructively. The contact person is Britta Belli, and guides for this Connecticut-based publication are found at emagazine.com.

Another nonfiction-only publication, Afar explores the cultures and peoples around the world, giving travelers an inside look at and connection to various destinations. Each department/region has specific guides, so check their website: afar.com. Send queries online, and include published clips and/or links to your published work.

New Criterion has an annual contest for unpublished book-length poetry collections that pay close attention to form. The winner gets $3000 and will be published by St. Augustine’s Press. Contact Assistant Editor Emily Smith, New Criterion, Poetry Prize, 900 Broadway, Suite 602, New York, NY 10003, or email her (smith@newcriterion). Deadline is Sept. 30, so don’t delay.

American Journal of Nursing (AJN for short) reports a circulation of 120,000. They use poems, flash fiction and visual art related to health or health care for their “Art of Nursing” section and pay $1.50 on pub for entries there. You don’t have to be a health care pro to submit, but they want original thoughts and clear, unsentimental writing. Query the department coordinator online (sylvia.foley@wolterskluwer.com) before sending, and put “Art of Nursing” in the subject line.

The Diagram has an annual contest for nonfiction essays. Deadline is Nov. 30, and the winner receives $1000 and publication in a future issue. Contact Editor Ander Monson via email (editor@thediagram.com) or snail mail (ML 445, PO Box 210067, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721). See thediagram.com/contest.html.

Chuffed Buff Books seeks poems and short fiction for their themed anthologies. Currently looking for poems by women about all things maiden, mother and crone for one titled JOURNEY TO CRONE, and fiction for SENSE FIVE, a book about the five senses. Payment apparently is offered, amount unknown. See chuffedbuffbooks.com.

Dorchester Publishing, known for books in the romance, horror and western fields, is up for sale, with the e-retailer Amazon reported as first in line to acquire it.

Harper Voyager, the SF imprint of Harper Collins, takes submissions only from agents—as do most of the truly big-time publishing companies.

Mockingbird Lane Press and its editor, Regina Williams, publish a variety of fiction and nonfiction works, ranging from chapbooks to full-size novels. They do both print and electronic publishing (for Kindle, Nook and the like). No advances at this small outfit, but they pay royalties (10% for print editions, 25-35% for electronic). Website: mockingbirdlanepress.com.

The University of Louisville English Department sponsors the Italo Calvino Prize, for a ‘fabulist’ fiction piece, published or unpublished, written in the vein of Italo Calvino. The winning author gets $1500, an all-expense-paid trip to Louisville for their annual Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, and publication in THE SALT HILL JOURNAL. Visit louisville.edu for info. Sub deadline is Oct. 12.

Visit Insatiable.com for info/guides to a new e-zine that pays 3¢/wd for short stories of paranormal romance.

Fly fishers take note! Fly Tyer is a quarterly about new flies for trout, bass, panfish and saltwater species. They also use articles and short column pieces on materials, techniques and tying older patterns. You’ll need photos and/or artwork demonstrating the ties and techniques described. Send queries by email after consulting online guides at flytyer.com.
Hard Case Crime publishes original and reprint crime fiction, all hardboiled style. Send queries to editor@hardcasecrime.com. Guides at info@hardcasecrime.com.

Midstream, a magazine about Jewish spiritual and cultural life, particularly contemporary in the USA and Israel, uses fiction (2000-5000 wds), nonfiction (1000-4000) and poetry. Guides are online at midstreamthf.com.

Slate uses nonfiction that provides analysis of the news, politics, business and technology, and culture. Email complete mss to submissions@slate.com with “editorial submission” in subject line. They also read poems, Oct. 1 to April 30. Email editors@slatepoems.com.slate.com.

Salon wants articles and social/political commentary on timely issues. Email query or ms. to appropriate staffer with “editorial submission” in subject line. See salon.com.

PRISM International, the oldest literary mag in western Canada, pays $40/printed page for poetry; $20/printed page for prose (Canadian dollars). They read year-round and use fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, drama and translations from writers all over the world. They also do contests (consult website for details—prismmagazine.ca). To submit, send paper copy and cover letter to PRISM International, Creative Writing program, university of British Columbia, Buch. E462-1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 Canada.

Weird Fantasy Magazine uses—you guessed it—weird fantasy fiction! A new magazine in both print and electronic form, they use fiction up to 10,000 words, preferring a range of 2500-7500. Appropriate styles range from pulp stories, film noir and old monster movies, to surrealism and dark SF. “Think Alfred Bester mixed with David Lynch and a bit of Philip K. Dick,” Editor M. Rhodes says. It’s projected as a quarterly, and will start out paying a $25 flat fee for First Rights. Visit their blog: weirdfantasymag.blogspot.com. Send stories as Word or .rtf attachment in email to weirdfantasymag@gmail.com.

Working Mother features articles for working women (makes sense to me!). Balancing profession and family, personal life is the main theme. Check website for specific contacts for editorial content. Send queries by email with clips or links to your previously published works. Guides at workingmother.com.

A lit mag that pays contributors, Image uses essays, memoir, fiction, interviews and poetry that explores the intersection of art and faith. Guides are online at imagejournal.org, but submit to this quarterly via mail to Image, 3307 3rd Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119.

Black Warrior Review features previously unpublished fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Send 3 to 5 poems, fiction to 7000 wds max, and nonfiction to 7500 wds. This biannual has its guides online at bwr.us.edu.

Absinthe Literary Review uses transgressive fiction, poetry and essays on literary subjects. They pay, quote, “a small amount.” See absintheliteraryreview.com for more info.

Meanwhile, NakedReader.com does NOT use erotica, children’s fiction, poetry or graphic novels. They do use most other kinds of fiction. (Stories 2000-10,000 wds; novellas 20,000-60,000 wds; novels 80,000-120,000 wds.) Website: nakedreader.com.

Langum Charitable Trust Prize for Historical American Fiction awards $1000 for a work of fiction published in the previous year. They look for a story that “helps to make the rich history of America accessible to the general reader.” Their address: 2809 Berkeley Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242. Website: langumtrust.org. Deadline is Dec. 1.

Gemini Magazine has an annual contest, open to any one poem. Deadline is Jan. 2, 2013. Winning entry earns $1000 and is to be published in the magazine. Address: Poetry Open, PO Box 1485, Onset, MA 02558. Editor is David Bright. Email: editor@geminimagazine.org. Website: gemini-magazine.com.

Wordrunner eChapbooks is a small online press that does short single-author collections of fiction, poetry and memoirs. They also do one anthology per year. There is no fee to submit, and authors are paid (likely not much, but still, good to know). Details/guidelines: echapbook.com.

The Academy of American Poets sponsors the Walt Whitman Award, a contest for the best book of poems by an American citizen that has not been published in a standard edition. See poets.org/whitman, or write to them at 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 901, New York, NY 10038. Winner gets $5000 (no typo!), a month-long residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT, and will be published by Louisiana State University Press.

All successful men and women are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day toward their distant vision, that goal or purpose.
- Brian Tracy

[Sources: the online market sites Ralan.com and Duotrope, recent issues of The Writer and Poet & Writers Magazine and my inquiries.]
About Pennwriters
Pennwriters, a not-for-profit organization of more than 450 members from Pennsylvania and beyond, was established in 1988 as a networking organization for published and aspiring writers of all genres. The group offers an annual three-day writers conference and area events and has a strong internet presence, with email groups, online classes and social networks. Authors who meet set criteria are granted Published Author status. For more information about Pennwriters and its members, visit www.pennwriters.org or contact President Carol Silvis at snax@nb.net.

Submissions
Have an idea or submission for The Penn Writer? Contact Heather Desuta, newsletter editor, at thepennwriter@gmail.com. The Penn Writer is published bimonthly. DEADLINE FOR THE NOV/DEC ISSUE IS OCTOBER 1. The theme will be “Self-Publishing.” Submissions not based on theme are welcome as well. Please share your accomplishments, tips, great quotes, book recommendations, etc. Send relevant artwork, photos and book cover images too. We hope to hear from you! Type “PENN WRITER SUBMISSION” in the subject line of your email message, and include your Area.