



Whether you are a published author or a writer-wanna-be, this e-zine is for you. Here, you will find articles, announcements, book reviews, poetry, and information about the craft and business of writing, publishing and book marketing written by our readers. Our goal is to connect the writing and publishing community through networking that benefits both.

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AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY

What a great time to turn over a fresh new leaf and experience the best year ever. How? By setting realistic goals with dates, a plan of action and an accountability partner.

My friend, Bernice and I worked together for five years. Neither of us wanted to work a desk job for the rest of our lives. She wanted to become a real estate agent. I wanted to become a freelance writer. Our strategy was well planned. We set goals to get the education, equipment, and resources in place while we still had our day jobs to fall back on. We paid off debt and reduced our monthly expenses. Then, we saved money for start up. During that year we were both taking college courses and she was also studying for the real estate exam. I was writing my first book. Several times each week we went to lunch together to give a report on where we stood in reaching our goals.

If one of us was whining about how hard it was, we would gently help the other get back on track mentally by repeating our goals and double-checking the time line. "Only three weeks left and this semester is over!" "How's the book coming along? Did you write 10 pages like you said you would?" Tough love for sure, but it was worth it. In 2003, we escaped from our corporate jobs within a month of one another. Bernice made the million-dollars sales club her rookie year and has continued to reach every goal she set—even organizing an event and running in a marathon for Susan B. Komen Foundation! My success was a little later coming because I had to learn everything the hard way. I had no idea that writing books with my own name on the cover would require that I spend everything I made trying to market the book. But, even by losing money on some ventures, I've gained an education that I value dearly.

In 2008, Bernice and I will again be meeting every month to discuss our goals and hold one another accountable. I encourage you to find someone you trust and partner with them. You will both win in long run.

On another note—a musical note that is—I now have a song to go with my book *RIGHT TO RECOVER, Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America*. My book publicist, Chuck

Whiting, is also a musician who works with celebrities in the Nashville area. After several weeks we came up with the lyrics to a song. Then, Chuck put the music to the words. And went into the studio to produce a quality mp3 recording. It is now listed on payloadz.com and is available for download for only 99 cents, or you can [listen now for free!](#)

I wish you much success this year. May your miracle come true!

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Blog Site: <http://yvonneperry.blogspot.com>



WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A NOVEL?

By Mary E. Martin

If you're like me in a bookstore or online, you're attracted by a book's cover. I know, we are not supposed to judge a book by its cover, but I can't help it. Once you've picked it up, what do you hope to find when you turn the pages?

Are you looking for a simple diversion to while away an hour or so on the bus? Nothing wrong with blotting out the traffic jams! You'll find plenty of diversion on most any bookstore shelf. Or are you looking for something to get your teeth into—hoping the writer has created an enchanting world just for you of fascinating plots, and characters who jump from the page into your head, and scenes which make you really experience “being there”?

Yes, indeed, that's what I want. And in addition to all that, here's what I'm looking for—some magic! No, I'm not into fantasy novels or science fiction myself. Instead, I mean that magical sense of the wonder at life. Tall order, you say? Of course it is, but it is those kinds of novels that live on in our minds for years to come—even for many lifetimes.

Robertson Davies is a Canadian author, whom I greatly admire. In his essay, *The Novelist and Magic*, Davies talks about a novel, *Trilby*, published in 1894, by Georges DuMaurier. It's about a beautiful woman [Trilby] who has a gorgeous singing voice. But sadly, she has no “musical ear,” without which she is a hopeless performer. Enter the musician *Svengali*, who hypnotizes Trilby so that her singing becomes stunningly beautiful. Audiences are transported out of this world by her voice. Together, they are a sensation, but when he suffers a heart attack at a performance, her singing becomes, once again, raucously ugly. We all know the hideous nightmare resulting when our dreams, colliding with reality, explode like a balloon. And so, the story highlights our very human need for keeping our dreams alive and for someone to complete us. Even today, we wish for our own personal *Svengali*.

Is this magic? For me it is because, it serves up magical enchantment—that which we *wish* were true in this world. In another essay, *Writing, [the McFiggen Fragment]*, Davies asks what essential quality a novelist must have. His answer is *shamanstvo*, which he defines as “enchanter quality.” Such a novelist is “the weaver of spells, who through his spells, reveals unexpected and marvellous things about life and thus about ourselves.” Upon hearing this, I immediately conjure up in my mind a campfire, deep in the woods at night. Huddled about the fire are human beings stunned into silence by the marvellous tales of the shaman. Shamanstvo comes down to us from prehistoric times and yet is alive in us today as story telling! It is in our blood and in our bones.

But where does shamanstvo come from? Davies answers this as well. This is a gift to an artist which rises up from the Unconscious. The true artist has the ability “to invite the unconscious, to solicit its assistance, to hear

what it has to say and impart in the language that is peculiarly his own... [this] is decidedly his gift and what defines him as an artist.”

If you believe in the creative power of the unconscious, as I do, then it seems that the writers of novels with the gift of shamanstvo are easily spotted as soon as you open the book and read page one. You are dragged into the story by the story-telling voice of the author, who does not let you go until the last page or the embers of the campfire have died out.

Mary E. Martin grew up in Toronto where she began practicing law in a small estates firm. In 1999, she became a full time writer and photographer. Her own writing The Osgoode Trilogy, in the legal suspense genre, was greatly inspired by her law practice of twenty-eight years, which she says gave her a window on the world and humanity. Visit Mary at www.theosgoodetrilogy.com or www.authorsden.com/maryemartin.

COOLCATS TECHNO-QUESTION



Jerry McEwen of Coolcats was a regular columnist for Writers in the Sky Newsletter. And, he was a personal friend to me and many of our readers. Jerry was fatally stabbed at a Kroger store parking lot in Nashville on December 18, 2007 while trying to stop a man who had just stolen a purse from a 60-year-old woman. The man who stabbed our friend had only been out of jail for a few months. Fortunately, he and his female accomplice have been arrested.

You may read the story here:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071220/NEWS01/712200397/1005/RSS04>

Jerry knew everything about technical and computer stuff. He was always willing to help whenever I needed to update the Web site he created for me several years ago. Since he wouldn't take money for the minor tweaks, I invited him to have his own column in my newsletter. He was so excited about the opportunity and eagerly awaited to hear the question from a WITS reader.

I emailed Jerry on Monday just before this issue was going to be formatted. He planned to have the piece for me on Wednesday. When I didn't hear from him, I thought it was odd because he always got right back to me promptly. I was thinking of him on the way home from a meeting on Friday and had planned to touch base with him that afternoon. When I got home, I had two phone messages telling me about his heroic death.

I just can't believe he is gone. We will truly miss this guy.

Yvonne Perry

WITS Podcast Schedule January/February 2008

January 4

Mark David Gerson, author of *The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write*, joins WITS Podcast host Yvonne Perry for a hearty discussion about writer's blog. What is it? Why does it come? What message does it bring? What is this "muse" everyone talks about?

The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write, is a book of inspiration, instruction and practice for writers, and has recorded a companion CD of guided meditations for writers. The book and CD, suitable for writers in all genres and all levels of experience, draw on his years of teaching and coaching in the U.S. Mark David has taught writing as a creative and spiritual pursuit for more than 15 years, helping both novice and seasoned writers to deepen their creativity, move through creative blocks and answer their call to write.

Listening to Writers in the Sky Podcast on a computer is easy.

Just click this link:

<http://yvonneperry.blogspot.com> and go to my blog.

On the right sidebar there is a list of archived shows. Click on the interview you would like to hear and it will open a post that has a link to open the audio file.

I appreciate all the positive feedback you send me about these shows.

For information about being a guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast, see

[http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writing_Packages.htm#Publicity Packages](http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writing_Packages.htm#Publicity_Packages)

An inspirational speaker as well as an author, coach and mentor, Mark David has spoken to groups all over the country about empowerment, creativity, personal growth and spirituality. His essays on those same topics now reach readers in some two dozen countries through his free e-mail newsletter. We are proud to have Mark David share how he created his own publishing company [Lightlines](#) to get his book to the market. He also has some great marketing tips for you, so don't miss this show! See <http://markdavidgerson.com> for more information or <http://markdavidgerson.blogspot.com> to blog with the author.

January 11

Arkansas native, Velda Brotherton is Yvonne Perry's guest as she discusses her book, *Fly With The Mourning Dove*—the true story of a young girl who grows up on a homestead in New Mexico.

Synopsis: In 1920 six-year-old Edna accompanies her parents to New Mexico to homestead 640 acres. Her father, a tuberculosis victim, hopes to restore his health while doing what he loves: running a ranch. This is the story of a family's struggle to tame an arid land and remain together while a disease ravages one of its members. It is the story of a small child who grows to love the stark and beautiful high desert country, even as her parents struggle against adversity.

For the past twenty years Velda has been writing historical articles and books. She is the co-chair of a writer's critique group that recently celebrated twenty years of success helping fledgling writers. In 2004 she was honored with a 30-minute documentary featuring her work to preserve Arkansas history. It appeared on PBS and was shown at several film festivals. Today Edna oversees ranches in the Tusas River Valley of New Mexico and the San Luis Valley of Colorado. At the age of ninety-three, she visits her beloved Tusas whenever she can.

Velda's book (ISBN # 1-4241-5904-0) is available online through the bookstore at Publish America, and on Amazon and B&N or www.veldabrotherton.com.

January 18

Virtual book tour specialist, Dorothy Thompson brings a wealth of information to authors who are looking to better understand the benefits of online virtual book tours. The stay-at-home virtual book tour has proven to be an effective way to market a book online by offering readers a chance to get to know you and become familiar with your writing.

Dorothy's company Pump Up Your Book Promotion PR (<http://www.pumpupyourbookpromotion.com/>) is a public relations firm that will give your book a terrific online exposure as it concentrates on the millions of people who buy books online every day. Dorothy works with authors on a one-on-one basis for powerful and effective online PR to give your book the best chance at success.

January 25

Cheryl Robinson's book *Sweet Georgia Brown* is sure to be a good one. I think it has great potential for a screenplay. You'll agree once you see the book trailer for this new release <http://www.thegrits.com/literaryservices/?p=58>.

Battle of the sexes takes center stage in this new novel when *Sweet Georgia Brown*, a humble housewife, is determined to become a household name. After eleven years of marriage, Georgia Brown is fed up with her husband, Marvin, a popular radio personality. She's fed up with him not because she suspects he's having an affair; or because she is suddenly expected to raise his thirteen-year-old daughter, Chloe, who she never knew existed. No! It's because he had the nerve to talk about her weight, their marriage, and their sex life on national radio! Now, to save their marriage, Marvin invites Georgia to the radio station for an on-air rebuttal, having no idea it will launch her career. Or that what began as a battle at home will now be a blistering war for all to hear!

Promotion by The GRITS COM Literary Service says, "The early reviews coming in for this novel have been great." Read Harriet Klausner's review at <http://mainstreamfiction.blogspot.com/2007/12/sweet-georgia-brown-sweet-georgia-brown.html>.

Writers in the Sky Podcast Show listeners will enjoy hearing more about this entertaining new novel as well as hear how Cheryl's successful self-publishing career landed her the great 2-book deal she has with New American Library (NAL), a division of the Penguin Group, today! This book goes on sale nationwide, January 2, 2008! You may visit Cheryl Robinson online at www.cherylrobinson.com.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A NEGATIVE BOOK REVIEW

Once you've published your book, you will probably start getting reviews. Most will be positive and you'll be able to use them for promotion, but what if you get a critical review? What should you do with it?

I regularly check Amazon.com to see whether any readers have written anything about my book *RIGHT TO RECOVER Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America*. Last month someone wrote a mean-spirited and very negative review of my book. This review seems to have been written by someone who not only hates the book, but also dislikes me and is perhaps an opponent of stem cell research. I was surprised to read that this reviewer found the 600 hours of research with scientists, medical doctors, researchers, an embryologist, and other experts in this field "a shell-game of half-truths and lies." I clicked on the link to see how many reviews this reviewer had done, and what they looked like. This was the only one she has written to date.

I'm not naïve enough to think that everyone is going to love my book or agree with my message. I realize that stem cell research is a controversial topic and that there is a minority of people who oppose it. The opposition has voiced their opinion many times on my blog. Through Blogger.com, I have the option not to publish

detrimental comments people leave on my blog. However, I do not have this option on Amazon.com because they have editorial power. This doesn't mean I do not have recourse.

Recourse 1

While every reviewer has a right to their own opinion, I believe that Amazon wants to sell my books and I imagine they would not want to keep a review online that might sabotage the sales of my book.

If I were to contact Amazon about negative reviews that were obviously written by serious reviewers, they would probably think that I'm on an ego trip. However, this particular review was an attack not only on me and my book, it was also an insult to potential customers and readers who would "appear ignorant or boring and feel deception is appropriate to get your way." I could email Amazon at community-help@amazon.com and explain the situation, and most likely they would remove the review.

Recourse 2

I can completely ignore the review. It probably won't have that much bearing on my sales especially since all the other reviews I have received are very positive and the book itself is endorsed by some of the top researchers in the field. This critical review might put my book even more into the limelight because it could bring my book more exposure and credibility. Those who read her review might be inclined to purchase my book just to see if I am really as ignorant as the reviewer says.

Recourse 3

People seem to remember negative comments more than they do positive ones. I could engage in a positive rebuttal with the reviewer. This reviewer may be an ultra conservative right-winger who opposes stem cell research. Like most who believe that a blastocyst in a lab dish is equal to a human being, I could ask this person if they are against the *in vitro* process which creates a reserve of blastocysts. I would remind them that these cells are currently being discarded when they are no longer needed. My book advocates using the leftover cells for research rather than tossing them as medical garbage.

A negative or critical review may be a good thing. I support you in taking advantage of every opportunity and turning it into a positive experience.

Yvonne Perry is a freelance writer and the owner of Writers in the Sky Creative Writing Services. She and her team of ghostwriters and editors service clients all over the world by offering quality writing and editing at an affordable price. If you need a brochure, web text, business document, résumé, bio, article or book, visit www.yvonneperry.net.

NETWORK WITH US

Add your announcement or brag about your writing accomplishment. Tell us about your book or business. Share information and ideas or send articles or advertorial for the next issue to writer@yvonneperry.net. Here are some announcements from our readers this month:

Dear Yvonne,

Some (or many) of the writers who enjoy your newsletter are ready to market their work to agents, editors, or publishers.

They will thank you for introducing them to www.getpublishednow.biz, my unique website dedicated to helping writers get published. I'm a former publisher, Time-Life editor, motivational speaker, teacher at UCLA

and five-times published author. During my days on the “other side of the desk” I read thousands of query letters and book proposals. I know what works and what doesn’t.

For a limited time, I’m offering FREE query letter evaluations. No kidding, they’re free. Come take a look-see. If you think the information on my site will benefit your readers, please spread the word. Thank you for your consideration.

Molli Nickell

Speaker-author-marketing coach

www.getpublishednow.biz

Helping writers get published since 1998

Do you want to get more mileage out of your book marketing dollars?

WITS publicity packages are affordable and effective ways to market your book. Yvonne Perry offers you the benefit of the knowledge she gained from her own book marketing experience. Choose from publicity packages containing book trailers, article marketing techniques, online media releases, author interviews, book reviews and more.

Our writing packages are a great deal for anyone needing online publicity.

See http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writing_Packages.htm

TOP GENRES OF 2007

Bookhitch Index: Surprising Results for the Most Searched Genres of the Year. Most Searched Genres of 2007:

- Romance
- Fiction (General)
- Science Fiction
- Cooking
- History
- Education
- Travel
- Religion
- Poetry
- Medical

According to bookhitch search data Fiction has topped the most searched genres for 2007, holding the top 3 spots. This shows that we all enjoy the occasional escape from reality. Still, Non-Fiction came in close taking up the last seven positions.

The U.S. made up most of the viewing public, closely followed by Canada, the U.K., France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Nevertheless, these results reflect the viewing habits of over 100 countries that have visited bookhitch in 2007.

bookhitch is a book portal designed to connect authors, publishers, and readers. The company was developed to fit the growing needs of authors and publishers within the industry, offering readers one site where they can find all books.

This year alone we received over 1 million hits to bookhitch and have worked with over 2,000 publishers (including Industry leaders) and authors to list their books on our search engine. Bookhitch is opt-in so that publishers and readers can direct consumers to where they would like their books to be purchased.

For More Information Contact
Emma Ward
eward@bookhitch.com
845-463-0024

ONLINE BOOK PUBLICITY WORKSHOP FEB. 4-29, 2008, HELPS AUTHORS BUILD BUZZ

Got a book coming out you want to hype? Has your publisher's publicist moved on to other projects? Do you have a book in stores that you know deserves more media attention than it's getting? Are you working on a proposal that would benefit from a better understanding of what you can do to promote your book? You need "Book Publicity 101: How to Build Book Buzz," a dynamic online course taught by a veteran publicist and author.

Offered February 4-29, 2008, the class is taught in a forum format, with lessons and homework assignments posted online in a private, password-protected forum. The highly-interactive course covers:

- How to create a book publicity blueprint you'll be excited about
- The single secret most authors don't know about generating ongoing media exposure
- The most effective and cost-efficient publicity tactics
- How to generate buzz online using virtual book tours and other techniques
- Radio and TV producer hot buttons
- How to bring an energizing new level of creativity to your publicity efforts

Students receive instructional materials and resources and complete weekly assignments that help them discover how easy it is to create book buzz. Student interaction on the forum enhances the learning experience by offering fresh perspectives and new ideas for all participants while instructor guidance and input takes your work to the next level. A free-for-all Q&A corner lets students get answers to questions not covered in the course materials, making this a highly-personalized learning experience for nonfiction and fiction authors.

Registration is \$179; Freelance Success subscribers receive a \$20 discount.

The class is taught by Sandra Beckwith, a recovering award-winning publicist; publisher of the free e-zine Build Book Buzz; and author of three books, including two on publicity topics.

Registration is limited to 20 students.

Register at <http://www.buildbookbuzz.com/workshops/book-publicity.htm>; send course inquiries to Beckwith at sb@buildbookbuzz.com.

I've got a new novel coming out in January from Write Words, Inc., ebooks on the net...it is The Odyssey...a short blurb follows:

A small sleepy New England town is suddenly thrust on an unintended journey to a place before time began. A devastating flood bearing down on the unsuspecting village devastates a neighborhood. When the waters finally subside, a strange object — a probe — emerges from the depths of a sinkhole. Two young brothers inadvertently activate its teleportation system sending the town and its unconscious citizens soaring towards a dead planet that has been drifting in space. Eons ago, its twin suns were on the verge of colliding destroying all life thereon. In a desperate effort for survival probes were sent from the stricken planet forward through time to the far reaches of the Universe. When the people of the tiny village of Oakville awaken they will discover that the incident that befell their town would soon become a reality that would change their lives forever.*//*

*//*Also I am going to be on Phil Harris Blog Radio Show with four other writers on January 14 at 8:00 pm. The toll free call-in number is 718-508-9893.

Thank you,

Elena Dorothy Bowman
Journey to the Rim of Space and Beyond
<http://elenadb.home.comcast.net>
<http://www.sarahslanding.com>
<http://www.myspace.com/elenabowmanauthor>
<http://elenadorothybowmansbooks.blogspot.com/>

"MousePrints Publishing, publishers of the Antelope Valley Anthologies wishes to announce their new website. www.mouseprintspublishing.com. MousePrints will begin soliciting submissions for the 5th Antelope Valley Anthology 1 January, 2008. The Antelope Valley Anthologies are made up of poetry, short stories, and essays written by residents or former residents of Southern California's Antelope Valley which stretches from Frazier Park on the West to Barstow on the East and Acton/Crown Valley on the South to Tehachapi on the North. All submissions should be electronic and sent as Word Document attachments. Prose should be no more than 3K words; poetry should be no more than 100 lines. For further information please contact MousePrints at mouseprint@earthlink.net.

The GRITS COM Literary Service (www.thegrits.com) launches the online book promotion of Cheryl Robinson's brand new novel, SWEET GEORGIA BROWN, on January 2, 2008! Cheryl will be Yvonne Perry's guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast on January 25, 2008.

Battle of the sexes takes center stage in this new novel when sweet Georgia Brown, a humble housewife, is determined to become a household name. After eleven years of marriage, Georgia Brown is fed up with her husband, Marvin, a popular radio personality. She's fed up with him not because she suspects he's having an affair; or because she is suddenly expected to raise his thirteen-year-old daughter, Chloe, who she never knew existed. No! It's because he had the nerve to talk about her weight, their marriage, and their sex life on national radio! Now, to save their marriage, Marvin invites Georgia to the radio station for an on-air rebuttal, having no idea it will launch her career. Or that what began as a battle at home will now be a blistering war for all to hear

Writers in the Sky Podcast Show listeners will enjoy hearing more about this entertaining new novel as well as hear how Cheryl's successful self-publishing career landed her the great 2-book deal she has with New American Library (NAL), a division of the Penguin Group, today! This book goes on sale nationwide, January 2, 2008! You may visit Cheryl Robinson online at www.cherylrobinson.com.

I'm a member of a very small critique group and we've decided to pool our promotional efforts in yet one more place. We've created THE SYNOPTIC STORM (a strong frontal system of artistic talent). Phyllis Campbell, Ciara Gold, Vicki Gaia, Rayka Mennon, Erin Moore, Ginger Simpson and Sue Vidars invite people to visit us at <http://synopticstorm.blogspot.com>.

Ladies Heatwave, Tornado, Volcano, Thunder, Lightning, Hurricane and Cyclone expect to be up and running right after the holidays. We've already started posting our individual welcomes. This promises to be a fun place with all the mixed personalities. :)

Thank you for your help in getting the word out about our new blog.

Ginger

SPICE up your life with GINGER

<http://www.gingersimpson.com>

<http://mizging.blogspot.com>

<http://myspace.com/mizging>

My book, *Choices*, a White Rose (Inspirational) Rosette (short story) is due for release Jan. 2008 from The Wild Rose Press! Here's the blurb....Best-selling novelist and songwriter, Camie Rogers has penned numerous accounts of the secret love she holds in her heart. Country-Music Superstar Kip Allen has changed from the shy, humble boy, to the epitome of "star." Can the two rediscover each other after one night of his Home is where the Heart is Tour? Find out in *Choices* by Pamela S Thibodeaux. <http://www.thewildrosepress.com>.

Warren M. Mueller will be doing an hour live radio interview on February 13th at 7PM Eastern Time on the INDEPTHYOU show! This will be about Warren's life story and writing his first book: *Truth Seeker: Straight Talk From The Bible*. Phone 618-692-8237 or email phycologist2002@yahoo.com for call in information. www.warrenmueller.com.

What Can a Dentist Teach You about Business, Life and Success? Discover Secrets to Achieving Total Success! by Dr. Joe Capista

What Can a Dentist Teach You about Business, Life and Success? goes beyond your typical think it and you can have it philosophy. Dr. Joe Capista reveals insights into the very thought processes and systems that took him from being a below average student growing up in an average blue-collar neighborhood to becoming a multi-millionaire and one of the most successful business owners in his industry.

Dr. Capista shows you how to develop and apply the very elements that contribute to a successful life including the power of your thoughts, beliefs and actions. If you have ever dreamed of living a life beyond your wildest dreams, a life filled with happiness, contribution, abundance and integrity, What Can a Dentist Teach You about Business Life and Success, will show you how. Guaranteed!

ISBN 978-0-9658159-5-6

202 pages; \$19.95

Maxwell Publishing

Business Success Spiritual

More information at www.joecapista.com

Avatar Publication will be releasing Book I AND Book II of MESSAGES: AN ERA OF TRANSFORMATION by author Philip F.Harris at the end of January!

“I hope that someone gets my message in the bottle.” ~ STING

Messages in a bottle are sent for three possible reasons: you are in need of help, you are responding to a request for help, or you just want to connect with new people. In a way, this series of “messages” meets all three of those criteria.

We live in a time and a world of uncertainty. Our entire reality is being questioned as environmental, spiritual, political, social and economic institutions are breaking apart at the seams. People are searching for new answers to age-old questions, since the old answers no longer seem valid. They have put their cries for help in a bottle; there are many who have chosen to respond.

In this first of a series “messages” we here from noted authors, healers and mystics as they offer their words of advice and wisdom on topics that will help us enter the “era of transformation.” In this “bottle” listen to the words of:

SHERRY BRANTLEY, Author
STEVEN MAYBER, Healer
SANDI KIMMEL, Songwriter and singer
DR. MICHAEL SHARP, mystic and author
SHIRLEY CHENG, Author
DAN STONE, Channeler

MESSAGES II continues to bring humanity rays of light and hope. Author Ed Rychkun addresses financial and complete body, mind and spirit connections. Linda Walker shows the spiritual side of weight reduction and how your mind set creates your appearance. Ken MacLean talks about the “Big Picture,” the vibrational Universe and “life solutions. Linda Saper-Bloom takes you down the path of alternative healing. Zoë Routh discusses how she won her battle with cancer using spiritual laws. These ‘messengers’ also discuss the law of attraction and the use of basic spiritual principles to create your own reality.

More will be forthcoming in this series.

FRUGAL BOOK PROMOTER NAMED 2007 TOP TEN STAR

Carolyn Howard-Johnson’s how-to book for writers, *The Frugal Book Promoter: How to Do What Your Publisher Won’t* is top seller for 2007.

The Frugal Book Promoter is a USA Book News Best Book and a winner of Book Publicists of Southern California's Irwin Award. It is the first in Howard-Johnson's How To Do It Frugally series of books for writers. The second is the newly released *The Frugal Editor: Put Your Best Book Forward to Avoid Humiliation and Ensure Success*, also a USA Book News award winner.

Howard-Johnson, an instructor at UCLA Extension’s Writers’ Program, chose to have the book published in both e-book format and paperback in order to give both emerging authors and her struggling students affordable and convenient choices. Whichever format a reader chooses, The Frugal Book Promoter assures an author’s book the best possible start in life. Full of nitty-gritty how-tos for getting nearly free publicity, the author shares her professional experience as well as practical tips gleaned from the successes of her own book campaigns. A former publicist, she tells authors how to do what their publishers can’t or won’t and why authors can often do their own promotion better than a PR professional.

Frugal Book Promoter is available in a full 250 page e-book format at: <http://starpublish.com/starbooks.htm> . Look for it in paperback at Amazon.com and other bookstores. It is also available as an Amazon Kindle book. Learn more about Carolyn Howard-Johnson at <http://www.authorsden.com/carolynhowardjohnson> .

www.BiblioScribe.com provides a place where authors and publishers can still market their books in the same place that they can be purchased. BiblioScribe.com allows members to use free article and Press release tools that embeds their book as part of the article, and readers have the opportunity of locating and buying the subject book directly from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Powell's, as well as corresponding UK and Canadian online booksellers. Additionally, the Biblioscribe.com members' public profile provides links to multiple books specified by the member, as well as the member's own website. BiblioScribe membership is also free.

Bryn Colvin will be on the <http://romeroticawriters.blogspot.com/blog> on January 23rd and the romancejunkies.com blog on the 30th of January.

A number of Write Words authors will be on Phil Harris' radio show at 8pm EST on January 14th and the show will be available the following day on his web page - www.blogtalkradio.com/pharris. These authors will include: Elena Dorothy Bowman, Dorice Nelson and Nikki Leigh among others. Elena Dorothy Bowman has *The Odyssey* being released in January in e-book format.

For Published Authors

There's a new book blog tour website (www.inspireauthor.com/promotion) where you have several options to promote your books. First register on the site to create your profile page. While you're on the site, check details about being a site sponsor and feature author opportunities. Any questions, contact author Nikki Leigh at nikki_leigh22939@yahoo.com.

Reluctant Smuggler
by Jill Elizabeth Nelson
Publisher: Waterbrook Multhomah Publishing Group
ISBN: 1590526880

Release: January 15, 2007

They say keep your friends close and your enemies closer...but what if you can't tell the difference?

For security consultant Desiree Jacobs, the assignment was simple: make off with an ancient Mayan artifact and hand it over to the good guys in time to plan her wedding to ultra-fine FBI agent Tony Lucano.

Yet, in a world where no one is as they seem, Desi must decipher who the good guys are—before she ends up in the hands of a ruthless enemy.

Suddenly, artifact recovery turns into archaeological espionage, and the woman who finds all the answers must now ask questions: Who's looting priceless antiquities underneath the nose of the baffled Mexican government? And what does a violent gang of drug and human traffickers have to do with missing artifacts?

Even with Tony on her side, Desi will need way more than luck to survive against the odds. She'll need the truth—not just to set *her* free, but to liberate many innocents caught in the snare of calculating evil.

BUY IT NOW! <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1590526880/jillelizabeth-20> For more information about Jill and her novels of romantic suspense, go to <http://www.jillelizabethnelson.com>.

THE WRITING LIFE: HOW WRITERS GET PUBLISHED

By JJ Murphy

As I look back over this past year and resolve to reach new goals in the coming year, I think about what the writers I respect have written about the craft of writing. Natalie Goldberg, Anne LaMott, Peter Elbow, among others – every one of them writes more words than we readers see.

I recently dug through ten years worth of journals. Most of it was junk. The naturalist in me is disgusted at the waste of paper. The writer in me knows that I'd have nothing in print if I had not written all that junk.

Every writer I respect creates notes, brainstorms, etches out rough drafts, rewrites, reorganizes and revises before their work is published. I'm convinced that this is one irrefutable fact of creating readable work.

Here are a few other discoveries that guide me through the process of turning an idea into a written work:

- 1. The hand-eye-brain connection.** I take notes on what I read and hear. Writing out what I think I understand about a subject is one way to help internalize that knowledge. Imagine my surprise when I read Robert Bly's statement, "The next step in getting ready to write copy is to *type up your notes*. ... by filtering the information through your brain to your fingers and onto the typewritten page, you gain more familiarity with your facts." This is also useful in creating compelling fictional characters. The more deeply the reader connects with a character, the better the experience.
- 2. Write the maximum words possible.** One technique is to write about your topic for 5-10 minutes, read what you wrote, pick out the main theme and write on that theme for 5-10 minutes. Repeat this process and you end up with a picture of what you understand about a topic. This is useful when developing your ideas and creating rough outlines or drafts. Freewriting is a way to let the words flow; it is a lot like warming up before strenuous exercise.
- 3. Don't edit your early drafts.** Let the writing flow without interruption or distraction. Don't cross out or erase, just keep writing, redundancy is part of the process. Spelling and grammar are not the point. The idea is to get all the words out while your passion and excitement are high.
- 4. Use both sides of your brain.** Once you have written something, take a break. Natalie Goldberg calls this *composting*. Other writers talk about letting your subconscious mind work on the piece. Writing is more than a physical and intellectual act. There's an element of the craft that happens on a different level of understanding. In order for you to really internalize the piece, you need perspective; shifting your focus helps establish that perspective.
- 5. Exercise daily.** Writing is a full-body experience. Writing involves your sense of sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. For me, hiking and writing are intertwined. When I am fit I can hike for miles or write for hours. When I'm stuck hiking a mile or writing a sentence, it can be daunting. Even on the one or two mile days or the one sentence days, I make the effort.
- 6. What do you want to say and to whom?** What you include in the content of your work depends upon the reader. Once you know your subject and your point of view, can you state these in one sentence? Does the opening paragraph tell your reader what to expect? Is the language appropriate for the intended audience? Do you expect your reader to take action as a result of your written work? Is that clear to the reader?

7. Test out your work. Once you think you have a final draft, find a critique group or sample of your intended reader to read your work. Pay attention to weak areas, gaps or responses that surprise you. Use that information to fine tune your writing.

8. Submit submit submit. Whether you submit one article or hundreds, your work will be rejected more often than it is accepted. A New York Lottery ad says “You’ve got to be in it to win it.” If you don’t send the work out, then no one will have a chance to see it.

9. Write because you love to write. There will be times when you cannot face another rejection. There will be times when you stare at a blank screen or blank page. There are times when you will question your motives for writing. Successful writers - whether published or not - all have a burning need to write. Every writer I respect has shared that they would write - even if they never publish. Indeed, I have read some profound work that may never get published. The writing is compelling, passionate and worthy of publication. But unless you are a publisher, someone else has the final say on whether your work gets published.

JJ Murphy is a nature writer, blogging hiker, locavore curriculum creator and tree-hugger currently based in Harriman, NY. Visit <http://www.writerbynature.com> for more information on JJ's writing services and her favorite places for gear and supplies.

Self-Publishing Book Promotion: How to Raise Money for Publishing Your Book Even as you Promote It

By Christopher Kyalo

Blogs are really wonderful because one of the things they make possible is dirt cheap self publishing book promotion that is not only amazingly effective but can also be hugely profitable.

Actually the first step in self publishing your book should be setting up a blog for promotion purposes. This is the perfect place to start gathering your raw material. You could alternatively use it as the place to publish the raw unedited version of your book intended for self publishing even as you launch the promotion. The latter idea would work extremely well if you have hired a ghostwriter to help you put your book together. Here's how. As they write and post the pages at the blog, they should be careful to use keywords that will attract plenty of traffic from search engines and also keywords that will attract the highest paying Adsense ads possible to the blog.

Thus you begin earning money from your self-publishing book content even as you are putting together your book and at the same time launching your initial promotion. What's more you will be able to get plenty of feedback from your potential book readers. All this will be happening as you meet your main objective, which will be promotion of the book that you are self publishing.

Done properly, you can raise substantial sums of money to cover a large part of your book self publishing venture even as you embark on some very effective promotion.

Visit the author's [self publishing book strategy](#) blog for more amazing tips, details and valuable resources. Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Christopher_Kyalo

JANUARY POEMS

A Place for Poets to Share



Poetry Corner

Trust

I will not question your remiss.
You cannot help your folly in
A frenzied, fashioned, frivolous
Profusion of profession.

Within a welt of weariness
Without a weathered wariness
You see the a certain innocence
That escalates confusion.

How could I doubt?
Why should I shout?
What kind of lout would question?
To taunt or mock
Would cause a shock
But garner no confession.

I will not cry
Or alibi
Or grumble in disgust.
Sometimes the fat
Is rendered to
A simple act of trust.

Dennis Martin began writing plays and submitting them to the local playwright's festival when he turned 40 years old. He has written 13 plays –several of which have been presented as staged readings in the Baltimore Playwright's Festival. Dennis has written over 800 poems and self-published a book of poems titled "Love and

Passions” available at www.iuniverse.com and major online bookstores as well as 6 other poetry collections and 3 novels available at www.lulu.com/dsmartin. Read more about Dennis at <http://www.iwritesome.com> or blog with him at <http://iwritesome.blogspot.com>.

Moments Of Thanks

Maps Of Intentions
Pinpoint An Instant In Time
Changing Realities
Bring The Birth Of God
To A World Of Forgetfulness

Flickering Consciousness
Awakens New Visions Of Purpose
Salvation Sits On An Altar of Thought
Draped In Robes Of Awareness

Yesterday's Separation
Is Healed With Vivid
Perceptions Of Unity

The Voice of Connection
Rings Out Through The Ages
Vibrating Tones Reveal
Mysteries Of Life
In Moments Of Thanks

An Ancient Symbol Changes
Into
The Will Of Freedom
The Desire For Peace
And The Gift Of Love
Within Myself

*Hal Manogue
From the 2009 Collection of Short Sleeves A Book For Friends*

The Bible of Self-Publishing

By Norm Goldman

Any book that is in its 14th edition must be doing something right. Such is the case with author Dan Poynter`s, *The Self-Publishing Manual: How To Write, Print and Sell Your Own Book*.

Poynter, in addition to authoring *The Self-Publishing Manual: How To Write, Print and Sell Your Own Book*, has written more than 100 books, 50 monographs and over 500 magazine articles.

The latest edition of *The Self-Publishing Manual* is required reading for anyone contemplating self-publishing. Succinctly, it is a “soup to nuts” manual that takes you by the hand and reveals all of the intricacies that you must know about self-publishing.

Divided into twelve chapters, the book opens with what are the publishing choices available to authors. Poynter explores various possibilities- big publishing firms, medium size niche publishers, vanity or subsidy publishers, and finally self-publishing. It is the last one which much of the book revolves around, and where the author presents a very extensive overview of self-publishing.

Poynter acknowledges that self-publishing is where you will make more money, get to press sooner and keep control of your book. Although, as mentioned, “You will invest your time as well as your money, but the reward is greater. You will get it all.”

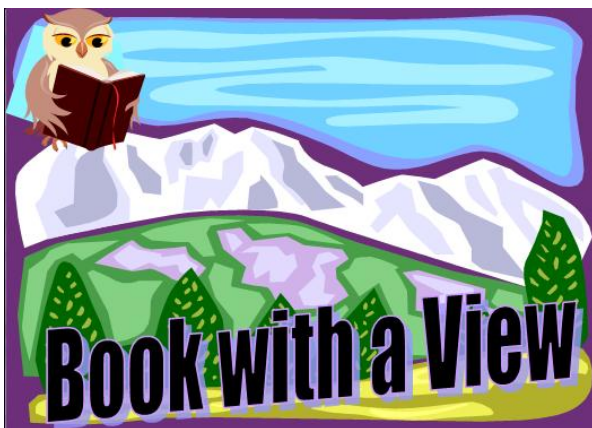
The author no doubt has done some rigorous research and every chapter is substantiated with invaluable information covering specific topics as: writing your book, starting your own publishing company, announcing your book, how to evaluate your book’s worth, promoting your book, targeting your market, advertising, moving your book out the door, electronic book publishing and promotion, and coping with being published or once you are published what do you do know.

At the back is a well- presented information section containing excellent resources for publishers, recommended reading, book production and promotion resource, a calendar to keep you on track while you go through the various phases from writing to completion, and a glossary.

Readers seeking to learn the hard facts about self-publishing do not need to go elsewhere-it is all wrapped up here in 430 pages that just about answers everything you want to know. However, as the author points out in his preface, there isn’t sufficient room in one manual to include everything. Consequently, as a compliment the book, the publishers, Para Publishing, have prepared several supplemental reports (called documents, special reports or instant reports) that are referred to throughout the book. These can be found on the author’s web site. Appendix 2 lists all of these resources.

Norm Goldman is the Editor of the Book Reviewing site, <http://www.bookpleasures.com> and the travel site, <http://www.sketchandtravel.com>. Norm is also a travel writer and together with his artist wife, Lily, them meld words with art focusing on romantic destinations. You can view their articles and art work at <http://www.sketchandtravel.com>. Bookpleasures comprises over 25 international prestigious book reviewers who come from all walks of life. They review all genres. Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Norm_Goldman

JANUARY BOOK REVIEWS



The Mango Tree Café Loi Kroh Road

Author: Taryn Simpson & Alan Solomon

Author Web site: <http://mangotreecafe-loikrohroad.blogspot.com/>

Book Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQD0R5IXOhs>

ISBN-13: 978-1430325222

Reviewer: [Barbara Sharp Milbourn](#)

Purchase at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1019489> or Amazon.com

Alan Solomon and Taryn Simpson, in *The Mango Tree Café Loi Kroh Road*, present the life of Larry. We both meet and say goodbye to Larry as an old man sitting in his cane chair on the veranda of his Chiangmai home peering into the past and future. What's in-between is an entertaining and sensitive story of a man's awakening to find and serve the truth.

Larry, a teenager, heeds the words of his father to leave the small New Zealand village so that his achievement will be greater than ". . . watching the grass grow and releasing the pressure from the udders of cows. . ." His travels take him to Thailand, "Land of a Thousand Smiles" and to the fertile beauty of the Mae Rim region where the solitude of the jungle stands in sharp contrast to the noise and bustle of Chiangmai's Loi Kroh Road. On this famous and hypnotic road, the powerful and the powerless come to wash bad luck away in drink, prostitution, and anonymity.

In one of its bars, Larry has a vision (not his first) that points him to partake of the road and feed it a different food, to experience a different kind of love, and to acknowledge and embrace his purposefulness.

I'm convinced that roads like this and their seedy, gritty dynamic exist around the world. What I especially liked about *The Mango Tree Café Loi Kroh Road* is that it places us in the pocket of Larry's shirt closest to his heart. We are standing with him in the press of his life, peering into and out of the café, seeing it for what it is, meeting its characters, smelling its smells, tasting its strange humor and barely disguised grief.

We move back and forth through time and reality to the accident scene, and eventually come to rest as the realization of who he is and why he is here presents itself. Through Larry we are reminded of how little we are really known and understood by others—and often ourselves—and how his seeking is hardly different from our own if we will but stare into its face. Enjoy *The Mango Tree Café Loi Kroh Road*.

Hear author Taryn Simpson in an interview with Barbara Milbourn by clicking on Taryn's name on the right side bar at <http://yvonneperry.blogspot.com/>.

A Trial Of One

Author: Mary E. Martin

[Author Web Site](#)

Reviewed by Jaimie Bell

[FRONT STREET REVIEWS HOME PAGE](#)

Although the third book in the Osgoode Trilogy, *A Trial of One* can definitely stand on its own. Henry Jenkins is the executor of the vast but missing fortune of declared mental incompetent Norma Dinnick. As attempts to locate and retrieve the Elixicorp shares for his devious client advance, Henry finds someone else is also searching for her millions.

Dr. Robert Hawke insists the funds belong to his institute, which developed Emerituus, a miraculous drug that claims to reverse the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Michael O'Hearn is unaffected by Hawke's astonishing presentation and magnanimous offers designed to manipulate the greedy and ambitious medical staff. Though determined to uncover the hoax and expose Dr. Hawke as a fraud O'Hearn has yet to learn something more sinister is afoot at Hawke Institute and that the Doctor will stop at nothing to achieve his diabolical goal of the trial of one.

As this drama was set in motion, lonely widow Dorothy Crawford finds some startling letters that hint her philandering husband, law partner to Henry Jenkins, did not die of natural causes. Ignored by police, she sets off to investigate the identity of the person only known as Q. Crushed under the weight of a loveless marriage, she finds new strength in her skills as an amateur detective.

The story heats up as Jenkins races to Venice for the precious bank code with Hawke's thug hot on his trail and spies seemingly everywhere in and around the dark channels.

A thriller, murder mystery, and romance novel rolled into one, Martin is an excellent storyteller who created compelling multi-faceted characters. Wading into the dark waters of Alzheimer's she presented various stages of the disease, from mild dementia to mania, through her use of minor characters. The contrast between those unfortunates and the fully functioning Dorothy Crawford was a nice touch. Intriguing references to the first two books in the trilogy made them seem a terrific read as well. The fast moving and tense buildup led to a very satisfying conclusion. *A Trial Of One* is an iUniverse Publisher's Choice.

Stop Being Pushed Around!: A Practical Guide

Author: Lynda Bevan

Loving Healing Press (2008)

ISBN 9781932690453

Reviewed by Olivera Baumgartner-Jackson for Reader Views (12/07)

Lynda Bevan's "Stop Being Pushed Around!" is Book #3 in the 10-step empowerment series. The first two books in the series are "Life After Your Lover Walks Out" and "Life After Betrayal," so a practical guide for victims was obviously a logical next step.

This seemingly slim volume delivers plenty of information, written in an easy-to-understand and easy-to-follow style. It starts with an introduction, which makes it clear that this book could be helpful to you if you are either a victim or living with one. Afterwards Ms. Bevan lays out a ten-step strategy, leading one from recognizing one's role as a victim and how one became a victim to the question about wanting to change and how to achieve that. Filled with real-life stories as well as comprehensive lists of factors and examples, the book guides one through the process of identifying the problem and solving it. The suggested changes are doable and sound realistic.

There are also two added chapters in the book, the Appendix A –Bullying in the workplace and Appendix B – Emergency contacts. The first one of those would definitely be helpful to anybody who is in a threatening, victimizing situation at work and the second one has a list of two dozen contacts both in USA and abroad.

Another rather interesting feature is a poem, included in the book, called "Victim." It is chilling, yet encouraging at the same time. Make sure you read it!

A book like this would definitely help an emotionally insecure person feel less alone and less strange, which would be a great first step on the road to recovery. Breaking the process down in ten steps makes it look less daunting for sure and the encouraging words of Ms. Bevan should assist one in seeing the situation as less overwhelming. Ms. Bevan's down-to-earth writing and sensible advice make this book a valuable tool and an asset in every victim's library. And, for those of you who are not victims, but know somebody who is – buy a copy of "Stop Being Pushed Around!" for them. It just might save somebody's life.

Winter Blossoms: and other poems

Mamata Misra

iUniverse (2007)

ISBN 9780595443727

Reviewed by Richard R. Blake for Reader Views (10/07)

“Winter Blossoms” is a collection of poems depicting the inequity faced by women who are caught in a cross-cultural journey. These women are destined by society to experience the complexities of indignity, hostility, and domination. Mamata Misra has captured a yearning for change, and a call for understanding. In a courageous bold voice she uses her poetry to speak loudly with a message of hope to these courageous women.

The illustrations by Indira Chakravorty vividly reinforce the message of the poetry. These poignant words and pictures tell the story of the restlessness of communal violence, offer a prayer for peace, describe the loving presence of a mother, and relate the bravery of Seetha walking into fire to prove her chastity to prove her worthiness to be queen.

The book is arranged in a topical format. Pen and ink drawings coinciding with the words of the poem impact and enhance the message conveyed through the written word.

The topics include “Mother and Child,” “War and Peace,” “Questions and Answers,” “Hope and Despair,” and “Sound and Silence.” The final chapter entitled “Poems and People,” includes a brief background on each of the poems, the time and circumstances of its origin, and a brief comment or two regarding the message being conveyed. A biographical sketch of the author and the illustrator are also included.

The poems in “Winter Blossoms” reveal the amazing insight, of the author, into the nature of the struggles faced by South Asian women. Mamata Misra brings to the forefront the need to speak out against the reality of family violence, and abuse. She faces squarely the incongruity of the power struggle of war in the guise of establishing peace. I was deeply moved by the poem, “Despair.”



Jessica Dockter with *L.E.E. Design* is the graphic designer for the Writers in the Sky Creative Writing Services team. As the designer of this newsletter, she is also available to assist you with your graphic design needs, such as:

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