

WRITERS IN THE SKY

Newsletter



Whether you are a published author or a writer-wanna-be, this e-zine is for you. Here, you will find articles about all types of writing, publishing, and book marketing; plus we feature articles written by our readers. Our goal is to connect the writing and publishing community through networking that benefits both. Brought to you by Write On! Creative Writing Services.

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AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY

Last month someone suggested that I tell what my company Write On! Creative Writing Services actually does. So, here is a brief description: EVERYTHING!

When it comes to writing, we have it covered. Because my team consists of a network of highly qualified writers in a variety of genres and industries we can assist any client that contacts us—whether it is a screenplay to be ghostwritten, a book that needs polishing before submission to a publisher, a business document or technical manual.

We also offer all types of editing, personal coaching for writers, MLA formatting for articles and books, research, résumé creation, copy for ads and graphic design for Web sites, brochures. If you need help with a writing project, Write On will help you.

Besides the writing services and this newsletter, we also offer writing classes, a blog for writers and a podcast about the craft and business of writing. Learn more at www.yvonneperry.net.

Some of you have been asking about my daughter's wedding. Thankfully my 23-year-old is very organized and motivated. She has everything planned and ordered. She and I have been practicing our hand at calligraphy in order to personally address the invitations. Talk about writer's cramp. Ouch! Now, it's time to shop for my "mother of the bride" dress.

Yvonne Perry is a freelance writer and the owner of Write On! Creative Writing Services. She is a graduate of American Institute of Holistic Theology where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Metaphysics. She began her full-time writing career in 2003 and has since written more than twenty books.



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10 Ways to Boost your Business Online

by Wendi J McNeill

There are many ways the internet can work for you in promoting your business and I have compiled a list of ten ways to help you get started.

1. **Website:** If you're going to market yourself online you will definitely need a well organized and attractive website to fit your personality and your business. You don't need anything fancy and expensive, don't get caught up spending thousands of dollars on your site because this is not necessary! You want to start small and build on it, just make sure you have all the relevant information accessible on your site and don't make it look like your 5 year old son threw it together. Don't clutter your site, make it easy to navigate because if they have to search up and down for what they're looking for they will give up and head to the next website - so make sure you grab their attention! Check your web statistics regularly and this will show you how long your visitors are staying on your site, if you start seeing a trend where visitors are leaving your site rather quickly you may want to take a look at your site and revamp it a bit.
2. **Adding your URL:** Put your URL on your promotional items, letterheads, business cards, products and in your email signature. Also be sure and add your URL in all the press releases you send out to the media. Having your information at their fingertips will make it easy for them to visit you online and contact you.
3. **Search Engines:** Sharpen your search engine process so you can get the best possible exposure online. If you want additional exposure try search engine marketing where you pay to have your text ad appear when people put in certain keywords to search, I suggest starting with Google Adwords and start small to test the water first.
4. **Sign up Box:** Yes, the sign up box, everyone knows they need one but yet fails to implement it on their site. Having a sign up box doesn't mean having a link that says something like this, "Click here to receive my monthly newsletter" chances are your not going to get too many visitors clicking on that link. A good example of a sign up box can be seen at CharliJane.com, look and see how the box has been created into the header, if your unable to add it to the header then make sure you put it in the top right corner of every page. My suggestion would be to put this on your top priority list as you may be losing visitors everyday that you will never be able to market or build relationships with. Give them something of value, something that will make them feel or that will solve their problem and they will sign up and continue to enjoy receiving your ezine and announcements.
5. **Ezines:** Another must have! If your going to spend the time to get yourself online and build an internet presence, you will not only want to have a sign up box on your site but you will want to create an ezine (newsletter) to send to your mailing

list every month or bi-weekly. By having an ezine you are keeping the lines of communication open while sharing with them valuable tips, articles and resources that will help them grow their business. Make sure you provide high content that will really be of assistance or interest to them. You should provide your readers with 90% valuable content and 10% promotional, if you do anymore then 10% of promoting yourself you will lose your readers. FYI: Besides word of mouth this has been my most successful marketing technique, so be sure and get your ezine started today!

6. **Article Writing:** Find others on the internet that have a site complimentary to yours and offer them free articles you have written. The other site will add value to their site and you get additional exposure, it's a win-win situation. You can also submit your articles online at many article submission sites to have other publishers pick them up and reprint on their site or in their ezine. Don't under estimate article marketing as it is a very successful marketing technique!
7. **Online Forums:** Excellent way to network, get involved and build relationships. Always add your URL in your email signature.
8. **Viral Marketing:** There are many ways to take advantage of viral marketing, one way is to add an "email this link to a friend" on every page of your website, it makes it easy for your visitors to simply click it on and share with a friend or colleague.
9. **Link Exchange:** You can create a link exchange on your site and ask sites that are complimentary to yours but not competitors to exchange links with you.
10. **Blogs:** Start your own blog! Blog marketing is part of a technique called "buzz" marketing and can drive additional traffic to your main website. You can set up a blog for free at blogger.com, typepad.com or wordpress.com

Being a creative and resourceful business development expert for 23 years Wendi McNeill coaches, encourages, and teaches speakers, coaches and authors how to take the essential baby steps, while completely focusing on one step at a time so they can advance to the next level in their speaking business. Wendi offers valuable tips and advice on marketing and growth strategies while providing speaking leads, speaker services, and resources that help boost their business both online and off which cuts their learning process in half saving them money, time and energy. To learn more about Wendi visit her online at www.CharliJaneSpeakers.com and www.CharliJane.com

RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY EBOOK!

This newsletter is featured on BestEzines.com. Please feel free to submit a rating or write a comment at <http://bestezines.com/?id=2471>.



If you have written a review of this newsletter or subscribed to the RSS Feed for Writers in the Sky Podcast please [let me know](#). I will email you a F*REE eBook, *Unite to Write* a collection of Reprintable Articles for your Web site or Blog.

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The Gift of Jealousy

There I was cruising along, doing what I thought was my best work when—"Smack!", jealousy tripped me up like a bully in the school yard. A few weeks prior, I had accepted a challenge to write and publish thirty articles by March 31st. I started off strong and had hopes I'd be the first writer to complete the challenge. I hit the halfway mark with glee—no one was close to me, or so I thought. Instead, two writers completed the challenge while I had just passed the halfway mark (Yvonne Perry was one of them). As a mature business professional, and a spiritual seeker, it bothered me that jealousy surfaced. It also bothered me because Yvonne is the person who helped change my freelance writing dreams into a reality. I wanted to celebrate her success along with everyone else in our writer's group. Instead I became fetal for a few hours and watch some unbelievably boring daytime television. "How could they be so fast? Will I ever be that productive? What's wrong with me?" Eventually, I realized I had three choices; I could hate the people who had what I wanted, I could hate myself for not measuring up, or I could learn from this powerful emotion. Fortunately, I chose the later. Here are 5 tips that worked for me:

1. Get honest. Do you really want what that person has? If the answer is yes, then celebrate the fact that someone else has already achieved what you desire. It means it's possible and there is already a path to follow. Many people like the fantasy of being a writer. They picture crowded book signings with devote followers but don't think about the solitary hours spent in front of the computer or the countless revisions required to finish an article or book.
2. Look behind the media hype. The more you dig into an "overnight success story", the more you'll realize the effort and sacrifice that individual made. Yvonne spent a full year building her business without much income or encouragement. She donated countless hours as a public speaker and mentored many writers. Best selling author, Nicholas Sparks, was raised in poverty. His father was distant and rarely present. His sister, whom he adored, died young. Nashville singer, Jonel Mosser, was labeled an overnight success after spending 10 years paying dues in all types of night clubs. Grant it, some people have more talent, or may be better at seeing opportunity, or have the kind of personality that attracts the right mentors to help them with their career, but the vast majority of successful people are hard working, generous and tenacious.
3. Look for ways to improve. If you want to be successful as a writer, get real about what you need to do to improve your writing skills, your marketing skills, your sales skills and your technology skills. Take classes, seek out a mentor and be willing to help them or pay for their expertise. Donate your services so you can increase your visibility and improve your writing skills.
4. Reflect on your gifts. A tenacious writer is far more likely to be successful, than someone who is more talented. Writing is a skill that can improve with time and practice. What do you do well? Sometimes I feel like there are people who can get more done in one day than I can accomplish in a week. That same person may be out of balance mentally or physically, may be able to write for eight hours straight, or may have writing or organization skills that far exceed mine. That's ok, we both can be writers.
5. Learn to celebrate success and measure success as spiritual output. If you think in terms of using your gifts and talents to improve the lives of other people, and you use your gifts and talents as best as you can, you are successful, you are already abundant. Most likely all your material needs will be met. You may or may not become financially abundant. The closer you are to successful people and the more you can sincerely celebrate someone else's success, the more likely you'll be able to achieve success and find support along the way. Stay authentic about who you are and what you have to give. Oprah Winfrey is the best person to be Oprah Winfrey. Kate Garvey is the best person to be Kate Garvey.

Rock-On Yvonne! I celebrate with you.



A PLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUR BOOK

This month Reader Views is featuring two books dealing with substance abuse – alcohol. Each author shares his own personal story and how recovery took place.

An Uncommon Drunk: Revelations of a High-Functioning Alcoholic

Jeff Herten, MD

iUniverse (2006)

ISBN 059537994X

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (11/06)

The author, Dr. Jeff Herten, writes “An Uncommon Drunk” from two main perspectives. The first is based upon his own experience as a functioning alcoholic. The second is based upon his experience and knowledge as a medical doctor. The amount of medical information that he provides about the damage that alcohol causes to our bodies is incredible. I have a Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and I learned more in this book about the physiologically damaging effects of alcohol than I did during my entire program. The alcohol industry does a lot to make alcohol appear benign, but really it is a dangerous poison for our bodies.

Link to complete review and live interview with author on: <http://www.readerviews.com/ReviewHertenAnUncommonDrunk.html>

My Swim with the Sharks

Richard Taylor

PublishAmerica (2005)

ISBN 1413782698

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (12/06)

“My Swim with the Sharks” is a story about a personal battle with a drug and alcohol addiction. Addiction is an insidious disease; it destroys people’s health, families and breaks down our society. Richard knew this, yet he found himself unable to stop drinking or doing drugs. In spite of everything that he was experiencing, Richard knew it was wrong, he knew it was destroying him and his friends, and he battled hard to overcome it.

Link to complete review and live interview with author on:

<http://www.readerviews.com/ReviewTaylorMySwimWiththeSharks.html>

Waking Spirit: Prose & Poems the Spirit Sings

by Shirley Cheng; foreword by New York Times bestselling author, Cynthia Brian

ISBN: 9780615136806 paperback; 9780615138930 hardback

To be released in May. Pre-order autographed copies from: <http://www.shirleycheng.com>

Kirkus Discoveries wrote:

An inspirational miscellany from one of the braver souls on the planet. The author of a number of works in genres ranging from memoir to short fiction to poetry, this motivational speaker is seldom at a loss for words to celebrate life and promote her indefatigable character. Here, Cheng collects a menagerie of lyrics, haiku, short personal essays and even briefer aphoristic words to live by--all on the theme of leaping over seemingly insurmountable hurdles, a subject with which this author is well-acquainted. Though plagued from infancy with near-fatal juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and then blindness as a teenager, Cheng continues to tackle on the page all life has to offer, enlisting but her two index fingers, the aid of a screen-reader program that reads back what she's composed and her indomitable will.

Cheng's prose statements detail a few of her tribulations, offering philosophical insights on suffering, though never with a hint of self-pity; her poems, particularly the vivid haiku, turn more to objects of the natural world that delight her.

For those ready to be eased of their burdens, Cheng provides a lift.

Title: Dance with Your Heart! Inspirational and Fantasy Books and Poems by Shirley Cheng

Be empowered, inspired, and motivated through the inspirational writings, radio interviews, and life story of miracle survivor Shirley Cheng, a blind and physically disabled motivational speaker, poet, author and contributing author of twelve books by age twenty-three. Despite her multiple physical disabilities, she's living the life she loves and she empowers others to do the same. Subscribe to her monthly newsletter, Inspiration from a Blind, to receive words of inspiration, news and updates on her books.

Would you like to swap links with ShirleyCheng.com? Contact Shirley via her site. <http://www.shirleycheng.com>

Cagney & Lacey and Me, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blond

by Barney Rosenzweig

<http://www.cagneyandlacey.com>

This week, Fox announced the long-awaited release of the Cagney & Lacey DVD set to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the popular TV show. The show's producer, Barney Rosenzweig, is also releasing his book on the trials and tribulations of getting this show on the air.

When Cagney & Lacey first aired on CBS, nothing like it had ever been seen before. Not only did the groundbreaking series feature two smart, capable women cops (this in The Love Boat era), it also tackled such taboo subjects as date rape, breast cancer, and a woman's right to choose. It was their gritty, honest take on real-life situations that gave the women's movement a jump start that forever changed the face of television drama.

It's been twenty five years since the breakthrough television series was first broadcast on CBS, and all the fighting and passion that went into creating and keeping the award-winning series alive will soon be revealed in Cagney & Lacey's and Me: An Inside Hollywood Story or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blond, written by the show's executive producer, Barney Rosenzweig.

(In case you're wondering about the "love the blond" part - - Rosenzweig later married Sharon Gless, who played Christine Cagney).

Alan Siegel on Branding and Clear Communication

by Louis J. Solvinsky

Over the past three decades, Alan Siegel has become one of the best known figures in the branding business and a champion of clear communications. He has achieved the stature of both pillar of the establishment and provocative iconoclast, while building a leading brand consultancy, Siegel & Gale.

Siegel's influence extends to advising organizations such as Xerox, American Express, The Girl Scouts, and The National Basketball Association. This biography tells the story of a man who became a success and leader in an area of human endeavor that neither he nor his friends expected.

Rich by Choice

by Erland Peterson

Successful money and wealth management. Rich By Choice gives you, with stories, facts and figures, the investment advice you need to build your investments and retirement income successfully.

Rich by Choice is the only book you will ever need to build your riches and manage your wealth. This is the process; these are the steps to make you rich. The choice is yours.

- MAKE YOUR CHOICES
- Investing money safely, for profit
- Insurance, benefits and protection
- Tax advice and planning
- The facts and figures you need
- Financial planners' strategies that work
- Real people's stories of success
- Stop saving, start investing; that's wealth management
- Wealth comes from ownership

Ricochet

by p.m. Terrell

<http://www.pmterrell.com/>

The night before Sheila Carpenter begins her career as an FBI Agent a bomb is detonated sending Sheilas best friend to the hospital in a fight for her life. Then Sheila discovers clues her mother left in the days before her parents deaths leading Sheila to believe their deaths were not accidental.

Now Sheila is on the trail of her mother's killers while the bombers are closing in on Sheila. She's swept into the dark underbelly of illegal immigration, identity theft, and terrorism. And now she's on a collision course with terrorists intent on sending the United States into chaos. And for Sheila, now it's personal.

Ricochet has been nominated for the 2007 IPPY Awards!

Writers in the Sky Podcast



[Writers in the Sky Podcast](#) offers interviews with authors and writers, as well as the latest news about books on the market, publishing methods and marketing techniques. There are more than 35 informational shows already uploaded and a new program is added each week.

Occasionally, a teleclass may be longer, but most of our classes are recorded in 15- to 20-minute segments you may listen to while traveling, cleaning the house, waxing the car, exercising, etc.

Many of the guests on the show also contribute informative articles and announcements to this monthly newsletter offered by [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#). The best part is there is no cost to listen and it is a great way to learn more about writing and publishing.

To [Sign up for the RSS Feed](#) go to <http://www.yvonneperry.blogspot.com/> and put your email address in the "subscribe me" box on the right sidebar. You will get some great information about writing and publishing and you'll never have to worry about missing a podcast show you wanted to hear.

How Publishers Decide to Publish a Book (or Not)

By [Diane Eble](#)

Have you ever wondered how publishers go about deciding whether to publish a manuscript?

I recently talked to Andrea Mullins, the publisher of New Hope Publishers (who just happen to be the publisher of my book, *Abundant Gifts*). Andrea outlined the process in great detail. Though this process might differ slightly from publisher to publisher, most follow the same basic process. (I know, because I have worked with at least a dozen of them, as an author, editor, and/or book coach.)

Note that many publishers do not accept unsolicited manuscripts or book proposals. That means that you usually have to have an agent, or some prior contact with an editor who has given you the go-ahead to send in your proposal. If you do not have an agent or the go-ahead from an editor, the book proposal is routinely returned with a form letter.

It will be returned only if you included a self-addressed, stamped mailer for the package to be returned, by the way. Otherwise, you can guess where it's dumped.

If a publisher does accept unsolicited proposals, they usually have guidelines, posted on their web site. Make sure you follow these guidelines to the letter, or you'll waste your time and your chance with that publisher.

Here's what happens to your book proposal, once it arrives at a publishing house:

1. The proposal gets added to the pile along with a lot of other book proposals. Depending on the publisher's submission guidelines (check these ahead), the proposal may be screened first by someone. If an agent has contacted an editor, the proposal will end up on that editor's desk. He or she will look it over, and make an initial decision whether to bring it before others in the publishing house.
2. If the editor deems the proposal worthy of pitching, he or she will take it to the next "pub board" meeting. Usually the "pub board" consists of the publisher, an acquisitions editor (usually the one who first sees your proposal), a marketing person, a sales manager, and a "numbers cruncher." The acquisitions editor champions your book, persuading the others as to why this book is worthy of being published. The editor will have nothing to go on but your proposal, so that's why it has to answer any question a publisher might have about what the book is about, who the audience is, why the author is qualified to write the book, what the competition is, what kind of marketing the author will put into it.

It's important to know that there are any number of reasons why a publisher might reject a book, even if they love the idea. They may already be publishing a book like it, or know that another publisher is going to publish a similar book. They may have done research already, and they know that "those kinds of books" don't sell. I recently pitched a book to a publisher. They loved the idea, but their research on prior books like it told them that this particular book doesn't sell enough to warrant publishing.

3. If the pub board thinks the book has possibilities, usually they will crunch some numbers. Often this means going to special services they have access to, that tell them exactly how many books of a similar title sold. (Regular folk don't have access to such numbers from services like Bookscan, which tracks how many books sell per week in retail outlets including bookstores and other outlets such as Target or Wal-Mart stores.)

Publishers don't only look at the bookstore sales, thankfully. In fact, more than half of all books sold are sold through channels other than bookstores, such as mail order, warehouse clubs, special sales to a variety of outlets such as corporations, nonprofit organizations, or associations that might buy bulk orders. If a publisher knows a book will do well in these channels, and the publisher already has inroads into these special markets, they may publish the book even though they know it won't do well on the retail level.

This is where it pays to do your homework, both about potential non-traditional outlets you may have contacts with, and about which publishers might have such contacts so you can target them knowledgeably. For instance, one of my clients has a book with a potential market for college students. We sent the proposal to a publisher that is associated with a college campus ministry.

4. If all lights are green—the publisher loves the idea, the author has a solid platform, the numbers work out to indicate the book will sell well—the publisher tries to determine how many books will be sold in the first year. Typically, they will figure a royalty

advance based on this number. Of course, they will probably shoot lower at first, figuring there will be some negotiating on the part of the agent and/or author. They will then offer the author a contract.

If the publisher decides the book won't be profitable enough for them—for whatever reason—they reject the proposal or manuscript.

If you get a rejection from a publisher, it's good to determine, if you can, why the book was rejected. Sometimes they'll tell you; usually they'll just say "it's not right for us at this time." If you have an agent, the agent can often find out what was wrong.

If it's something you can fix—such as adding ballast to your platform—go ahead and take some time to lay some more ground work before moving on to another publisher. This is where an agent or book publishing coach can help you.

If the book just isn't right for that particular publisher, you move on and submit to another. Agents usually submit to several publishers on their "A list" first, and only move on to the "B list" once they hear back from everyone on the first round.

It's worth noting that you usually don't get a second chance with a publisher, so make sure your proposal is as strong as it can be from the outset. Study a publisher's list; see if you can determine what their unique stance is, and figure out how your book fits into what they're doing. Articulate that in your cover letter.

Look at the publisher's guidelines as posted on their site. However, I have always gone above and beyond what they request—and I have sold every one of the books I have ever proposed (11 in all, plus one book reprinted when three agents told me nobody is buying reprints).

Remember, even if you are rejected by one publisher, don't take it personally. Even books that end up being best sellers were rejected by publishers. Hang onto your vision, make sure your book proposal and writing are as strong as they can possibly be, and never, never, never, never give up!

Diane Eble has 28 years experience in the publishing industry as an editor (magazines, fiction and nonfiction books), author (11 published books, more than 350 articles), and copywriter. She is now a book publishing coach as well. For more information on how to write a book proposal that sells, check out [Jump Start Your Book: 12 Questions You Must Answer Before You Write Your First Word](#).

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Diane_Eble



Glean

Waves spraying our faces for we don't walk the walk.

The beaches edge, which ever changes, is where we, Sky, earth, moon and sea meet.

Breezing through the strong breeze, the

Fuller our lungs, the lighter we'd run,

It was to be; with ease.

As reality, she and I stalked ourselves
In those shells silences, like when
We leaped from a slip on a rock to the next; well.
Then sitting still, we glistened, the sun splashing Through us; as the ocean's and our salt were one.

Her thoughts and mine flowed,
Our feelings were its ebb and flow.
Nature, true, would not be unsung.

That blue gray cloudy day found us in the end.
Finding it by moon's ray, our ears to waves did lend.
It was as our footprints,
Truly there 'til tide did gently lift.
For, if it were that we held it,
Like sand grasped, it wouldn't be a gift.

James M. Nordlund is a mental health counseling supervisor by profession, into poetic revelation and workshop as individual and group therapeutic milieu. He is involved with A.A.P., I.A.W.A., A.P.R., Teacher's and Writer's Collaborative, I.W.W.G., Univ. of the Sts., LummoX, Nomad's Choir, Poet's House, St. Mark's Poetry Project, Beans About It, P.E.N. Friend, NAFPT.

James is featured on his multi-art show, "Matutinally Watered Poetree" on Manh, cable, and other T.V. and radio shows. He has been a co-editor, assistant editor, written columns and published over 400 works and is currently a regional editor for Poet To Poet, out of N.Y.C.. Submission, twigs of poetree. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/firstpoetry/>

Passion

Ragged, worn hands
Soft, curved lips
Trailing passion devours
Clashing at the hips

Fire engulfed touch
Blazing wild heat
Passion quenches flavor
Dancing to the beat

Hearts strum together
Hunger breaks free
Two souls unite
Flowing passionately

Passion fades from eager
To one spent night
Bodies clenched as one
Basking in love's bright light

Danielle Sharp is a twenty-four year old aspiring author. She has been writing poems since the early 1990's—many of them based on her true encounters. Danielle lives in Michigan with her wonderful husband of three years. This poem was written November 1, 2006

Shadows of Life

As I lie in the still of night
and gaze at a hollow sky,
I reflect on the story of my life.
Like the star that has been

singled out of a cloudy mist,
I dare shine and be heard
in a voiceless universe.
Like the bitter piercing breeze,
my feelings froze in the grasp of time.
Character and emotion cast
into the mere shell of what is.
Like the lonely owl's cry,
I longed for my soul's companion.
Like the fresh scent of a spring rain,
I yearn to be pure.
Life is but a dark universe
and I enlighten it's shadows.

Danielle Sharp is a twenty-four year old aspiring author. She has been writing poems since the early 1990's—many of them based on her true encounters. Danielle lives in Michigan with her wonderful husband of three years. This poem was written April 9, 2001

Block

What to write, the block has come.
Where did ideas go, they were here yesterday.
Look to the sky, the ground, a building just to get hint.
There goes a car , a bird , a bug, nothing is coming.
There is a wall, big and unmovable.
There seems to be a crack but will it break.
It is small can barely be seen.
Keep on looking and searching for a way in.
There it is, it is so close.
It's so hard to see but is it getting bigger.
Can't stop, must keep searching for it.
Can feel it, here it comes.
Its here, it was worth the search.
The block is gone.

Blank Paper

The pen goes down and it moves.
Not with guidance but by force.
Passion flows from the unknown.
Thoughts are private but must come out.
Whispers become shouts for all to hear.
Once passive, now aggressive and sure.
They will know and hear.
Thoughts will be heard or be lost
Blank paper has been coloured.
All ears will be filled.
As the pen goes down and moves.

A Writer

Ideas are flowing in the mind.
Will there be the time?
So much to say, write it down.
So much to do , write it down.
Make a list, a story or two.
Will there be time?
Got to work, got to pay.
Got to come, got to go.
Round and round the same way.

Will there be time?
It's what I am and have to be.
It won't stand in front of me.
There will be time.

Lisa-Marie Mertineit lives in Brampton, Ontario Canada. She is new to the writing industry, but has always enjoyed writing and finds that ideas come easy. Mertineit has been working on short stories and different types of poetry and she loves to play on words.

Rest In Peace

Life is just too short
To play like it's some kind of game
Once you play with death
Things will never be the same
The hand of death can come very sudden
Unexpectedly knocking at your door
It may take you off the road you are taking
And it may never let you come back to travel anymore
So you want to play around with guns
And risk losing your own life
You want to quote, give them what they deserve
And stab them in the back with a knife
Doing drugs, dying a slow death
Just so you can get high
Selling drugs, killing innocent people
Just for money so you can get by
To much anger, hate, and rage
To let it go and just be friends
But if we don't stop the hurt and pain
When will all this killing end
Stop the killing among us
Or the death rate will continue to increase
To all my family and friends I've lost
May you all Rest in Peace

Jimmetta Carpenter is the Editor and Creator of the Free Fall Literary E-Zine. She has dedicated herself to the power of the words and given into her passion for writing and has been writing poetry officially since the age of ten. She has two books of poetry self-published through lulu.com under the Pen name Gemini; one is titled "The Art of Love" and the other "[Inside a Gemini's Heart](#)". www.freefalllit.com

WHERE DO CHARACTERS COME FROM?

ARTICLE #2 My Imaginary Friends by Mary E. Martin

Have you ever been haunted by a character, one who inhabits your imagination for days, months or years? Acquiring a life of his own, he leaps from the page and burrows inside us.

Think of Dickens' Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge or Shakespeare's King Lear or Macbeth? And then, of course, more recently, Hannibal Lector bursts from the mind of the novelist Thomas Harris and frightens us from the screen in the movie The Silence of the Lambs

Where did these characters come from? And what makes them so vivid that we carry them in our psyches for years? It's not enough to say that they arise from the imagination of their creators.

Maybe there is a clue in the thoughts of one of my favorite authors, Robertson Davies. [Deptford Trilogy, The Cornish Trilogy]

“Unless the writing rises from the only true fountain of inspiration—and the Unconscious has shown itself to be not timely, but timeless—it will not be first rate.”

HAPPY ALCHEMY, Jung and the Writer, Pg 349, McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1997

As writers, we may plot the life and actions of a character to our heart's content. We may apply intellectual reason to the creation and birth of a character, but it will be to no avail. Because, when it comes right down to it, the only thing that matters is where that character comes from, within the writer. If we try to create him by rational thought alone, he is almost certain to fall flat and be easily forgotten.

So what's so special about the unconscious mind? That's where creative psychic energy resides. According to Carl Gustav Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist, the artist [writer] has unusual access to the realms of the subconscious and all the creative energy it contains. Although we are usually unaware of it, our unconscious dream life continues even when we are going about our daily business. Those fantasies float up unbidden to the surface of the conscious mind of creative writers or artists. When he or she is doing some mundane task like shopping, one of those haunting characters may be born right in the aisle between the cereal and the detergent.

Does that writer rush home and write down everything that has emerged from the unconscious and then present it to the world as art? Hardly. That's only the beginning. She may go deeper into the realms of the collective unconscious – a sort of vast and completely disorganized library, which contains all the images, thoughts and energies of all mankind from all ages. Plenty of material there to shape characters who live on in us! They stay with us because they are 'made' of ancient material we all share as human beings.

I've sometimes been asked how could you possibly create such a character as The Florist in *Conduct in Question*? Such a question is usually accompanied by an uneasy sidelong glance. Perhaps I'm still trying to justify myself.

In *Conduct in Question*, the first in the Osgoode Trilogy, we meet the Florist, a sadistic murderer with an artistic flair, who believes he is called to judge the worthiness of his victims. When I was out for a walk on a beautiful spring day, I asked myself, what sort of person do I fear most? After many twists and turns in my journey, I realized it was someone who took extreme pleasure in doing physical or mental harm to another. A joyful sadist if you like. But how to make him grow beyond a cardboard devil, who might be easily dismissed or laughed at?

To create a real devil, I think you must give him real human characteristics. Then we cannot deny he is a part of us. The Florist senses a lack of compassion within himself. Longing for it, he addresses his mother. I know what the word compassion means. But what does it feel like? Miraculously, even the Florist has a fleeting moment of redemption, when he does experience compassion. Loving art, The Florist labors to create the lyrical lines of the painter Matisse, as he carves human flesh. He takes his task of judging the worthiness of his victims with utmost seriousness. Sound mad enough a Devil for you? But with these human touches, he cannot be so easily dismissed.

Back to Robertson Davies who writes,

“But I know that there is one thing he [the Devil] is: he is a personal element in everybody's nature, and he may be defined as everything that a man or woman condemns, detests, and is certain that he or she is not.”

HAPPY ALCHEMY, Jung and the Writer, Pg 337, McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1997

Is that the answer? The Devil is in all of us to one degree or another. Most of us succeed in keeping him under wraps in the unconscious depths. But we cannot deny he is there. Have a look at *Conduct in Question* and see the results of one writer's attempt to capture him from down below and put him on the page.

*Mary E. Martin, a Toronto lawyer, is the author of the Osgoode Trilogy which is comprised of *Conduct in Question*, *Final Paradox* and *A Trial of One*, all legal suspense novels. To learn more please visit www.maryemartin.com and www.authorsden.com/maryemartin*



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Suzanne Lieurance, The Working Writer's Coach, is the author of 12 published books and numerous articles for magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. She was an instructor for the Institute of Children's Literature for over five years and has been a master teacher at www.universityofmasters.com. She is the author of two free eBooks: *Get Your Freelance Writing Career Off the Ground* and *Tricks of the Trade: Learn to Write for Children* which are available at <http://www.workingwriterscoach.com/>. Each weekday morning she publishes The Morning Nudge—a few words to inspire and motivate writers to get a little writing done each day.

Yvonne Perry is the owner of [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#) based in Nashville, Tennessee. She and her team of writers provide ghostwriting for articles, press releases, books, brochures, resumes, and much more. Perry is the host for [Writers in the Sky Podcasts](#), the publisher of a newsletter about writing and publishing, and the author of several books. Her latest book titled *Right to Recover: Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America* is set to be released in mid 2007 by Nightengale Press. For more information, visit her website at <http://www.yvonneperry.net/writersoncall.htm>

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Email Interviews Have Their Place: 6 Times for Writers to Use Email

By [Melissa Barton](#)

Many veteran journalists warn new freelancers and staff writers not to use email to interview sources. Email interviews can be stilted, awkward, confusing (if the subject isn't comfortable with writing), or even too polished. It's also harder to have a natural conversation through email, which can restrict the direction of an interview.

But there are times when an email interview is acceptable, or even a better option than a traditional phone or face-to-face interview.

1. Avoid time zone conflicts. For one article, I had to interview a Peace Corps member serving in Albania, while I was in Colorado. Trying to coordinate a phone conversation given the timeframe would have been difficult. Fortunately, my source was articulate in writing and could access email a few times a week. The interview and follow-up went well.
2. Confirm complex information. When interviewing scientists, lawyers, or other experts about complex topics, it can be helpful to conduct part of the interview by email. Seeing the explanation in writing can help you avoid errors. Email is also a good tool for confirming your understanding of a telephone or in person interview.
3. Get background. If you know your verbal interview will have a strict time limit, you can email the source a list of questions to answer first. This can be a good way to get background that will ensure the interview flows smoothly and you doesn't waste time covering basic questions.
4. Answer quick follow-up questions. Some sources are difficult to reach by phone after an interview. Email works well for quick follow-up questions and clarifications.
5. Interview writers. While many people are more articulate and "quotable" in person, some people--like bloggers and other writers--may interview better over email or an instant messaging program. Be careful using these interviews--these people can sometimes be too polished in writing.
6. Interview a deaf and/or mute source. I once received an assignment (later changed) to interview a deaf/mute priest who lived in another state--in cases like this, email is often the only practical way to get the interview done.

Telephone and face-to-face interviews offer gesture, tone, and flexibility email doesn't--but keep email in mind as an occasional tool in your interviewing kit.

Melissa Barton is a freelance writer and editor, specializing in science and travel writing. Her credits include Geotimes, Transitions Abroad, Student Health 101, and other publications. Visit her online at Rosetta Stones Freelancing (<http://www.rosettastones.net>).

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Melissa_Barton

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These are the E-nouncements from our readers this month:

The Book Project by Bookhitch

Give back to the community through your words:

Write the next chapter of a book and see your name in print when the book is brought to market. We have three chapters of our community book written by different authors:

[Anne K. Edwards](#)

[Brian Rouff](#)

[Shirley Cheng](#)

The project is a great opportunity to promote yourself and your writing. It is also a great writing exercise for many of you who need to take short breaks, and may even spark that creative edge you are looking for when writing your next manuscript.

Do your part for this project:

We have now closed submissions for Chapter 4, and voting will begin soon...so VOTE.

If you are not familiar with the project then [take a look](#), pass the word along, and outline your project submission for chapter 5! Why not?

Visit the [Project Page](#) for more information about how you can participate.

Unless you missed my last update, the book we've all been waiting for, Tempered Fire is available NOW! From your local bookstore or online sources such as amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and BAMM.com.

Tempered Joy will be released sometime this year.

Meanwhile, please celebrate with me the acceptance of my single title novel, The Inheritance by The Wild Rose Press for their White Rose Line!

The Inheritance is about the chance we all long for, the chance to start over.

Widowed at age thirty-nine and suffering from empty nest syndrome, Rebecca Sinclair is overshadowed by grief and loneliness. Orphaned as a young child and suffering the endless cycle of foster homes, she has only known true love as that of her husband and children. Alas, her husband is deceased, her oldest child is pursuing an acting career in New York and her youngest child is attending college in France. Rebecca longs to shed her grief and start anew, to once again feel useful and needed, but she has no idea what God has in store for her future. Will an unexpected inheritance in the wine country of New York bring meaning and purpose to her life and give her the courage to love again?

US Postal worker Raymond Jacobey has been in love with the little widow since he first set eyes on her. A wanderer in search of the ever-illusivive soul mate, Ray has never stayed in one place too long. Raised by self-centered, high-powered executives, he's longed for the idyllic life of residing in a cozy house in a small town with the love of his life. Will their dreams come true together? Find out as we follow them from the mountainous splendor of Washington State to the vast, vibrant beauty of the Finger Lakes region of New York.

The Inheritance is tentatively set for release this summer, first as an Ebook, then in print!

For status and updates, check The Wild Rose Press website and/or My website.

Until later...Take care, stay in touch, God Bless and may your heart be on fire with the light and love of Christ! And as usual, THANK YOU for your continued support of my writing career.

Sincerely,
Pamela S Thibodeaux
Inspirational with an Edge!

CONTESTS:

Those who enjoy a contest will want to know about the \$100 cash prize I am giving as the **Write On! Award for the Best Creative Writing of the Year**. I have joined Irene Watson with Reader Views for her annual literary awards and encourage you to submit your work.

Criteria: Must have original, imaginative and creative use of words that create vivid mental pictures of scenes and characters.

My award is not the only award being given. A complete list of contests being offered by Reader Views is available at <http://www.readerviews.com/Awards.html>.

On April 15 at 3:00 p.m., Shirley Cheng, a blind and physically disabled poet and author of five books by age 23, will participate in New Voices Bookstore's grand opening by giving an inspirational talk and holding a book signing. The store is located at 424 E. 9th Street in New York City. For more information or to contact Shirley, visit <http://www.shirleycheng.com>

Would you like to swap links with ShirleyCheng.com? Contact Shirley via her site: <http://www.shirleycheng.com>

Get lots of no cost Time Management articles and tips now at our website: <http://www.balancetime.com> to give you more hours in every day. Reduce your stress and create more balance in your life now. Visit: <http://www.balancetime.com>

Mabel Ngu would like for us to know about a fantastic user-friendly E-Book Wizard Maker that could help create an e-book fast and at no charge! Upload your file and create a secure ebook at http://magmaker.spotbit.com/main/create_ebook.php

Sell your e-Book or e-Magazine on spotbit.com. There are tons of F*REE ones for download at <http://www.spotbit.com/main/>

About Purple Snowflake Marketing

Purple Snowflake Marketing - How To Make Your Book Stand Out In A Crowd, is currently being published. This e-book is a reference guide for self-marketing authors who want to stand out in the crowd. With over 500 direct links to resources, a holiday/event calendar and images of sample promotion materials, the e-book creates a way for authors to design an effective marketing plan and utilize frugal promotional tools with the click of their mouse.

Release date: June 30 2007 Publisher: <http://www.twilighttimesbooks.com>

"...Online, offline, in person, in taxi cabs, by mail, at events, anywhere and everywhere, their marketing reach tries to touch every potential reader. Indeed, Purple Snowflake Marketing - How To Make Your Book Stand Out In a Crowd, could easily add hundreds if not thousands of orders to any book published today..." ~ Frank Hilliard, Author of Deeley - Motorcycle Millionaire; former television journalist, video producer, magazine editor, security consultant and currently a semi-retired web-database developer.

"...Your questions about how to get reviews, what to do in internet marketing, making media kits and writing press releases will all be answered. This book is a Godsend to new authors..." ~ Betty Fasig, Author of Wooffer: Stories You Can Read To Your Dog (And Other Children)

"...one of the best guidebooks any writer could have on the journey of guiding their work to its final destination. ...sound

knowledge of how the market works and what it takes to reach the reader. Their advice is invaluable. The information you'll find here is exhaustive. The range of materials and resources in the appendices is truly mind-boggling." ~ Lois J. Peterson, Author of 101 - and more - Writing Exercises to Get You Started & Keep You Going (Metta Publications). She operates the writing, editing, consulting, and workshop business LPwordolutions

INTERRUPT INTERRUPTIONS!

By Dr. Donald E. Wetmore

A lot of our daily responsibilities require us to deal with interruptions, unanticipated events. These are not the problem. It is the unwanted, unnecessary interruptions that keep us from focusing on what really needs to get done. One strategy that I share in my Time Management seminars is the notion that "a problem well defined is 95% solved." We need to interrupt the interruptions!

Many of the interruptions we deal with can be eliminated. ("The best way to deal with a problem is to never have it.") To gain better control, I recommend the use of an "Interruptions Log." Nothing fancy, just a pad of paper headed with six columns: Date, Time, Who, What, Length, and Rating.

After every interruption occurs, log it in! Record the Date and Time it occurred, Who brought it to you, a word or two about What it dealt with, how Long it took, and most important, your Rating of its importance (A=crucial, B=important, C=little value, and D=no value). Plan to record this information for about a week to get a fair measure of what is really happening. (It is a nuisance to log this information in, but it does provide valuable insights!)

After accumulating this data for a week, go back and total up the A's, B's, C's, and D's. Most people discover that more than 50% of their interruptions were C's and D's, things that were not worth the time spent.

Finally, go to each C and D interruption and ask yourself, "How could this one have been avoided?" and start to take proactive steps to insure that it will not repeat itself in the future. Do this especially for the repetitive interruptions. For example, perhaps someone comes to you two or three times a day asking for information that they could have located themselves, just as easily.

Unless there is an intervention, helping this person to find the information for himself or herself, they will continue to interrupt you to get it. It is the path of least resistance. Help them to help themselves, teaching them how to get what they need on their own, no costing your future from having to spend time on what you know will be additional interruptions from this person.

All C and D interruptions will not be eliminated, but if you can head off, short circuit, and stop just a few and that buys back an extra hour per day, then you have carved out some additional time for long term projects that are being pushed back, thereby reducing some of the stress and frustration.

Want more no cost tips for better Time Management? Get your copy of, "The Five Top Time Management Mistakes". To receive your copy, send your request for "mistakes" to: ctsem@msn.com.

Would you like to receive no cost "Timely Time Management Tips" on a regular basis to increase your personal productivity and get more out of every day? Sign up now for your no cost "TIMELY TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS". Just go to: <http://www.topica.com/lists/timemanagement> and select "subscribe" or send email to: timemanagement-subscribe@topica.com. We welcome you aboard!

Don Wetmore is a full-time professional speaker who specializes exclusively in the topics of Time Management and Personal Productivity. He conducts his nationally acclaimed Time Management Seminars from one hour up to three full days, on-site, at your location for people who want more out of life in less time, for both their work life and personal life and with less stress. His seminars are witty, fast paced and filled with practical, common sense ideas and tools. One of the country's leading experts on this topic, he is the author of "Beat the Clock!"

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Word of Month

Having an extensive vocabulary is important to writers. In each issue of *Writers in the Sky*, I will introduce and define a word that we use don't often use. The word this month is:

Anachronistic (an-NAK-kron-niz-tic)

Out of chronological or historical order; a person or thing out of place in time

The Writing Life by JJ Murphy: Show, Don't Tell



When you are engaged, transported into the writer's world, emotionally reacting to the characters and images in the world around you - that's when the writer is showing, not telling.

Here's an example:

A brisk, wintry wind whistled along the South Carolina coast. It rattled the ice-tipped yellowed spartina grass and rolled a thick, steely grayed fog in from the sea.

In two sentences writer Mary Alice Monroe has me shivering and looking *Skyward* (the title of this novel) in my mind's eye.

Monroe could have written: *Winters in coastal South Carolina are characterized by brisk winds and grey ocean fog.*

Here are a few tips to invite your reader into your world.

1. Give the reader a reason to care. Compare these two examples:

Principal Bob Smith really cares about his students at Pinecone Elementary school.

As students enter the building, Principal Bob Smith bends down to make eye contact with the first graders at Pinecone Elementary. His brown eyes sparkle with pride as Casey shares a new word.

In the second example, we are in school making eye contact, feeling the connection. In the first example, we are told about the principal, but we are not involved.

This is true for both fiction and nonfiction.

2. Use dialogue effectively. Here's an example from *THE BEAN TREES* by Barbara Kingsolver:

"You from out of town?" he asked after a while, eyeing my car.

"No," I said, "I go to Kentucky every year to get my license plate."

Kingsolver didn't write: "No," I said sarcastically. She let her character speak. As a reader, I was there listening, not just hearing about it from someone else.

3. Use action verbs. Consider this example from Carl Hiaasen's *SKINNY DIP*:

Stranahan **dragged** the yellow kayak from the shed and **pushed** it into the water. He **stripped** off his shirt, **kicked** away his flip-flops and **climbed** in. He **paddled** through the light chop with short, hard strokes, ...

Notice how you or I could duplicate this action; in fact as readers we may be moving our bodies as we read this passage.

4. Use gestures and movements. Act out the scene, if necessary to capture details. Compare these two sentences:

Mary nibbled her fingernail, peeking out from under her eyelashes at the boy who stood next to her on line.

Mary was shy.

In the first sentence, Mary's movements tell readers about her feelings; in the second sentence we have no way to connect to Mary's feelings.

5. Make every word count. Here's an example from Barbara Kingsolver's *PIGS IN HEAVEN*:

Taylor is never sure when to argue with Barbie, who behaves like a tourist from another solar system who only read a toy catalog before arriving here. You can't argue with someone like that about family values.

Thirty-five words reveals each character's values.

Show, Don't Tell invites understanding; I cannot find a better way to say this.

If you are as captivated by what you read the tenth time you read it as you were the first time, then the author has succeeded in *Show, Don't Tell*.

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For a half-century, writer and passionate naturalist JJ Murphy, has been providing nature programs, original curricula, articles, product reviews, books and open discussion to children and eco-aware adults across the USA. She lives in Harriman, NY. <http://www.writerbynature.com> Creative Content for Your Nature Endeavors

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If you wish to contribute an article, advertorial, blurb, announcement about writing, publishing or book marketing, please review these guidelines and submit your item to writer@yvonneperry.net

- Limit articles to 750 words or less.
- The piece must be about the craft or business of writing and publishing.
- Include a short bio with your submission so I may give proper credit.
- Use Times New Roman 11 point font.
- MS Word docs are okay, but txt files are preferred.
- Promotion of your own material is accepted if it is written in an advertorial (article) style.
- No colored text box (jpg, bmp, etc.) ads. The article must be content rich.
- Book reviews are accepted as long as they highlight the book and its author in a positive manner.
- Poetry is accepted. I will publish three short works (less than 25 lines) in each issue. Do not double space between lines.
- Announcements of upcoming events, personal accomplishments, special offers, etc. are accepted. Try to keep these less than 250 words.
- Each submitting writer retains the copyright to his or her own piece of literature and may use it elsewhere.
- Since I do not charge a fee for the newsletter, I am unable to pay for submittals. However, the networking opportunity is worth a lot.
- The newsletter will be sent on the first of each month. I need all submittals in by the 25th day of the month prior.