

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

BLOOMINGDALE

FEBRUARY 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our February workshops will be on February 9th and February 23rd, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Format rules for submissions are:
Minimum, 12-pt. font and double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides.

FREE SEMINARS

The next free seminar at the Bloomingdale Library is on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. It is sponsored by Inside Writing and Publishing, DuPage Branch. It is titled: Writing Commercial Fiction: Why? How? The speaker is Lindsay Longford. To register, call Adult Services at 630.924.2730.

It covers the markets open for commercial fiction, the reality of trying to make a living through writing, and a discussion of why a writer might want to write either literary or commercial fiction, with practice in some specific writing techniques.

Pick up a brochure, detailing the entire series of seminars presented by area libraries, at the Bloomingdale Library.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Rosemarie Clausen, and
John Flaherty.

RECOMMENDED READING

Are you new to writing? If so, I recommend Making Shapely Fiction by Jerome Stern, New York: Norton, 1991. It was available in paperback. It was the text book utilized in my creative fiction writing class in college. I found it very helpful. Check your library for availability.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

If you are interested in seeing my photographs from my China trip last summer, you may view and download them for free on photobucket.com. There will be a "Search" bubble in the middle of the page. Type in my album name: herselfmal. It might ask you if you want to view this person's album. That is a link to the album. Click on that hyperlink. You can view them individually or as a slideshow. There are no captions so I'll briefly describe them. The airport is Hong Kong. In Beijing, there is the Forbidden City and The Great Wall. In Guang Zhou, there are temples. (The man in the photos is my brother, not my husband.) The trip was sponsored by the People to People Ambassador Program. I was a delegate with the Court Reporting group.

(Please submit any Column Two Personals information to my e-mail address for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.



HOOKS

It was great to see fellow members at the first free seminar! Part of J.A. Konrath's advice was to start a short story or novel with a first sentence that acts as a "hook", reeling in the reader, instead of describing the weather. Here are a few examples of "hooks":

"Yost Yoder drowned in a tank of unpasteurized (sic) milk."

No Use Dying Over Spilled Milk, by Tamar Myers, A Dutton Book, 1996.

"Sturdy Christian underwear saved my life."

Grape Expectations, by Tamar Myers, New American Library, 2006.

"I killed Clarence Webber just three days after he bought my sinfully red BMW."

Gruel and Unusual Punishment, by Tamar Myers, New American Library, 2002.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

From Mary Ann Lufkin
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