

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

JUNE 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our June workshops will be on June 14th and June 28th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Member Marjorie Lee attended Glennette Tilley Turner's seminar entitled: Doing Research for Nonfiction Writing on February 28th and submits this review:

The last speaker in the inter-library seminar series for writers was Glennette Tilley Turner. She is a local area resident, who has achieved success in the area of non-fiction writing. Much of her material revolves around historic individuals in the African-American community, who have made major contributions to create change in racial relationships. In addition to individual biographies, her writings have emphasized the regional aspects of the Underground Railroad, especially its history here in Illinois.

One helpful suggestion from the presentation was related to repeated use of written materials in different formats. One example was the development of a book by combining several one-page stories that had been used initially as single items in a children's comic book called *Ebony for Kids*. Each story had been a brief biography of a civil rights leader. When brought together, these units became a complete book. This type of procedure may require retaining control of the copyright.

Author Turner also emphasized having the vision to recognize stories in commonplace situations and having the ability to expand on

the spokes showing various aspects of that topic. Each spoke could be a separate writing project.

To those writers who are seeking information on linkage to publishers, Glennette Turner's methods may be helpful. She indicated that attendance at conferences of librarians and/or book dealers might be helpful. Usually these conferences have a display area where publishers or their representatives are present. A casual introduction in such a situation, well handled, might result in a successful linkage.

Author Turner's presentation was well attended and audience members responded with excellent questions and comments about copyrights, contracts, support grants and related matters.

Member, Mary Ann Lufkin, attended the "Breaking in: The Basics of Writing for Magazines" by Kelly James-Enger.

The first step to breaking in is picking your market. The choices are: Trade vs. consumer/newsstand vs. controlled circulation and custom publications (such as trade journals).

After you have chosen your market, you need to analyze it. One great tip Kelly presented was checking the masthead of the magazine. If it is long, that means they do not hire a lot of freelance writers. This narrows your choices and improves the efficiency of your query letters.

In the world of magazine publishing, you need to think six to nine months ahead. Consequently, subjects that are popular currently may not be when your story is published. Keep an "idea notebook". After you grow a story idea, create multiple angles for multiple markets. This also improves your efficiency, because the basic structure of your story is the same, you do not have to write an entire new article for a different

magazine. For example, Kelly wrote about running for several different magazines, and simply changed minor aspects of the article, depending on the magazine's focus.

Like many of the seminars, Kelly covered writing query letters. Great advice from Kelly included suggesting which section of the magazine your article would complement. If your query letter is not accepted, she suggests writing another one immediately (to the same editor) suggesting a different idea.

Kelly suggested interviewing authors of books as an expert source, because they love to self-promote. There was much more subject matter of a technical nature, and a sample query letter. It was standing room only at the Warrenville Public Library even though it was a bitterly cold evening. She was surprised that there were so many men in the audience. She was an energetic speaker (fast) and moved about the room constantly. She also promoted her two nonfiction books, which were available for sale after the session.

EDITING TIPS

What to look for when editing:

- ❖ Check for errors in spelling
- ❖ Check for necessary marks of punctuation
- ❖ Check for errors in capitalization, number, and abbreviation style
- ❖ Check for incorrect grammar
- ❖ Check for inconsistencies in format (font)
- ❖ Check your writing style (point of view)

Source:
The Gregg Reference Manual, 9th Edition, by William A. Sabin, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2001, pp. 316-317.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

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

SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“She was almost back to sleep when an unpleasant thought seeped into her consciousness **as stealthily as poison dropped into a liquid.**”

“He intended to be **as persistent as a barnacle attached to the bottom of a boat**, for he'd found that worked well with recalcitrant people like Louise. “

“...and now she walked around with the truth hanging on her **like the albatross that had hung around the neck of the Ancient Mariner in that damned high school poem.**”

“The day was almost over, but there was suspicion in the air, floating **like pollen over the fields on a summer day.**”

Source:

The Christmas Garden Affair, by Ann Ripley, Kensington Books, 2002, pp. 103, 111, 148, and 171 respectively.

ENJOY SUMMER!

From Mary Ann Lufkin
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