

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

BLOOMINGDALE

JUNE 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our June workshops will be on June 13th and June 27th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“...and after watching her synapses wave idly **like sea anemones**, connecting only by chance, I knew she needed help.”

Source:

Roberts, Gillian, 1989. *Philly Stakes*. Charles Scribner's Sons. P. 72.

“Miss Fludd?” Plant and Trueblood chorused, leaning across the bar **like two shipwrecked sailors over the edge of their lifeboat, so eager at a report of land they'd gladly swim for it.**”

“That long white banner flapping down the side of the Oratory **like a waterfall**; the road **like a river running past the rock excrescences of cars.**” (A two-for-one)

Source:

Grimes, Martha, 1995. *Rainbow's End*. Alfred A. Knoph, pp. 44 and 147.

STRENGTHENING SCENES (PART DEUX)

If your scene is boring, it may be because the actions/interactions repeat those of earlier scenes or don't advance the plot. Try cutting the scene. If there are elements of it you either love or need for your plot, combine those with a more vibrant existing scene.

If the tension of the story has flagged, it may be because there is not enough scene variety — too many low-key scenes in a row, which may be good for character development but has neglected plot. Try rearranging the scene order.

If the scene starts strong but fizzles at the end, it may be you have misplaced the scene climax. Try rewriting it to put the emotional high point of the scene at its end, which is always the power position.

Source:

Kress, Nancy. *Writer's Digest*. Nov/Dec 2006, p. 92.

INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

On February 15, at the Addison Public Library, member Rosemarie Clausen attended the “Writing for Broadcast” seminar and submits this review:

Rich King, a popular radio and WGN-TV broadcaster, gave a seminar about writing for the broadcasting industry as part of the Writing Series at the Addison Public Library. Rich King has been in the broadcast business for over forty years. He is somewhat unusual, in that he writes his own copy.

He interviewed Elvis Presley, the Beatles and the Kingston Trio in 1964.

As one might expect, he was a very good speaker, but he did not talk much about details of writing that the author audience did not already know.

In 1969, he started as a news writer. Then he moved into broadcasting. He was fired from one station, moved to another and then went back to the one he started at. It is a tough business but he was persistent and he said he kept his foot in the door at several stations and it paid off for him.

In 1972 he interviewed Red Grange (known as the Galloping Ghost) who was a running back for the University of Illinois and the Chicago Bears.

Sports reporting has changed over the years. The athletes have pretty much clammed up and do not tell reporters much in the way of interesting things like they used to. This is because




they have gotten burned by commentary from the sportswriters.

He commented that the narrative style of writing used in a novel is nothing like what you do for sports broadcasting. In sports broadcasting you usually say four or five short sentences about a particular game or event. Sentences are simple and brief. If there is a video presentation, you simply explain what is happening on the clips, most of the detail is at the end of the games.

He has written a biographical novel about Maggie, his beloved wife of 32 years who died of cancer in her early fifties. Most of his presentation was about how he wrote this book. One day he met with an author and told him his love story. His friend suggested he should write a book about it. A person did edit it for him and removed a lot of the material he wrote but the writing was his.

His story is a wonderful love story; about him and his wife growing up together, falling in love, getting married, their life together; and also about her courage and toughness throughout her difficulties with deafness, blindness, and several types of cancer.

Rich King said the goals of a writer should be:

-  happy to publish
-  happy to sell 1,000 copies
-  happy to receive low remuneration

This can end up being a lifetime job for you, both working on your story and selling it.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

Congratulations to Marjorie Lee whose essay, "Disability in the Church: Then and Now," was published in the May, 2009 issue of *HOPE*, the new magazine of the Joliet Diocese!



KEEP WRITING!

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