

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

### BLOOMINGDALE

#### APRIL 2010

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our April workshops will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

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#### SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“Its dull metal pipes rose toward the ceiling **like prison bars.**”

“I had seen details of my personal life spread in the church **like fire through a grove of dry aspens.**”

Source:

Davidson, Diane Mott. *Last Suppers*. 1994. Bantam Books. P. 251.

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#### YES AND NO

When the words after yes or no simply reflect or repeat or echo the words of the question, use a comma after the yes or no:

Q. Did you see her earlier in the day?

A. Yes, I did.

A. Yes, I saw her.

A. No, I didn't.

A. No, I did not see her.

Source:

Wakeman-Wells, Margie. “The Words Yes and No.” *Journal for the Reporting and Captioning Professions*. March 2009. P. 58.

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#### COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

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

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## **INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING**

By: Mary Ann Fristoe

On Tuesday, February 23, I attended the seminar presented by Sharon Woodhouse entitled “What a Publisher Wants to See.” It was held at the Bartlett Public Library.

Woodhouse operates a small publishing concern specializing in non-fiction about Chicagoland, in other words, regional interests. She prefers not to work with agents. She spoke about book proposals that authors submit to publishers and the fact that the book is leased to the publisher and belongs to the publisher. She emphasized that 75 percent of submissions received have nothing to do with Chicago regional interest. These submissions do not receive a response. She believes it is an insult to a publisher if an author suggests a publisher expand to include the genre of the submission.

Her publishing company does not pursue libraries as a source of marketing. She loves Amazon, because through Amazon, a small publisher can reach the world. Amazon pays on time, resulting in no collection costs. Additionally, Amazon provides a level of exposure she cannot ignore.

Most of her authors do not have to hire lawyers. Her firm has “boilerplate” contracts that may be “tweaked.” She stressed the integrity of publishing houses. Authors may be secure in submitting a complete manuscript, which is contrary to what I have heard at previous seminars. She discussed simultaneous submissions. Sharon also detailed the job descriptions of developmental editors, copy editors, and proofreaders. Extra handouts will be

provided at our workshops, while they last.

### **Speaker’s advice:**

She advised that new authors hire a copy editor before submitting to a publisher so that they may “submit the best product possible.” An author should submit artwork and illustrations because an author can obtain it cheaper than a publisher; but these do not have to be submitted with the first proposal. Sharon does not interfere with cover artists anymore and believes the covers are improved because of her decision.

Woodhouse was very blunt about authors neglecting other aspects of their lives and focusing solely on the book, yet expecting the book to solve all of their life issues. Pay close attention to a publisher’s submission response. Consider it a gift, because if your submission is not a “fit” for that publisher, it might be for another one. If you win a contest, state that in your proposal.

These Inside Writing and Publishing Seminars are a great, free resource. For members interested in marketing their work, I suggest you take advantage of them. Even if it is not your genre, marketing is always covered in the question-and-answer section of the seminars. It was a very interesting and informative seminar and books were available at a discount.

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## **BLOOD AND THUNDER**

The deadline for submissions for the 2010 Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine is usually around May 15. All interested authors are invited to submit original, health-care related, unpublished literary or artistic

works. Several members have been successful in having their poems and essays published in the past two years. Challenge yourself to write something concerning health care. Photographs are also published. I will bring last year's book to the workshops. The anthology is published in late October and all published contributors receive a free copy. You do not have to pay for submitting your work. Visit [www.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder/submit](http://www.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder/submit) for details.

### **KEEP WRITING!**

From: Mary Ann Fristoe  
malufkin@comcast.net

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