

# WRITERS BLOCK

THE WRITE TOUCH WRITERS NEWSLETTER

December 2008

## EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Before I get deep into the nonfiction genre pertaining to memoir writing, here is something that may interest you. It's about a challenge that was presented to writers - "Six-Word Memoirs". Later the submissions were published in a collection - "Not What I Was Planning - Six-Word Memoirs by Famous Writers and Obscure" - by Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser.

This is such an alluring concept, simple and true to the basic idea of expressing an anchored memory that speaks, for itself, in only six words.

"For sale: baby shoes never worn" - Hemingway's creation and proven message that six words could tell a fabulous story. Now, this can set the readers' minds at work...visualizing the tiny shoes, speculating on the circumstances at that point in time.

Here are a few thought-provoking six-word memoirs: "BY WRITERS FAMOUS AND OBSCURE" - "Wasn't born a red-head: fixed that" - Andie Grace - "Revenge is living well, without you" - Joyce Carol Oates - "I still make coffee for two" - Zak Nelson.

Delving into the guts of a memory could be one of the most profound expressions released from your locked-up thoughts and emotions...that screams to be written.

You still have time to write a one-page memory - e.g. - birth of your child, an event shared with a brother or sister, etc. - frame it, and give your gift.

Karen Fink

KUDOS!!

Mike Miller - Brainstorming Workshop, August 20<sup>th</sup> - Lockport Public Library

## FACILITATOR'S CORNER:

Francis de Sales - 1567—1622

Born in the duchy of Savoy, he received an excellent education as a young man, becoming a Doctor of Law at the University of Padua. He eschewed a civil career and was ordained in 1593 and soon distinguished himself as a preacher and as a minister to the poor and sick.

Francis concluded that one must have a wholly disinterested love of God without regard for whether one will go to heaven or hell after death. He once wrote, "Whatever happens, Lord, may I at least love you in this life if I can not love you in eternity since no one may praise you in hell."

He was canonized in 1665 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1877. He is the patron saint of the hearing impaired. He is celebrated by the Church of England, and he was made patron saint of writers.

Source: Lives of the Saints

Richard P. McBrian

W.E. Rowe, Jr.

## A STAPLE

The paper,  
That took me  
Time to write...

A creative paper,  
Organized, and trite.

All of the touches,  
And punctuation,  
Knowing full well  
It's my finest creation...

But for a staple,

Like the chainsaw  
To a tree.

It will be  
Like cutting

## MY MOUSE

By: Helene R. Lee

"Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring  
Not even my mouse.

The kids and hubby  
Were snug in their beds asleep  
While I stared at the screen  
Hoping for, at least, a beep.

The mouse has worn out  
As my deadline approached  
Oh, the replacement must arrive  
Before the credit accounts encroached.

I sprang from my chair

Japanese maple.

I hold all the pages steady,  
Only to make them ready

For a piece of  
Office equipment  
That should be beneficent.

Piercing the corner,  
It's too much to handle  
For the minute,  
Metallic staple.

One small tiddle,  
And a noticeable  
Blemish,  
To my perfect story, yet.

Peter Boes

When on the lawn there arose a clatter  
I flew to the window  
To see what was the matter.

What to my wondering eyes should appear  
A U.P.S. truck with a driver so lively and quick  
Running to my door  
Lickety-split.

Helene R. Lee

## RETURN

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
    Within my memory  
Reminding me of where I would pray  
    Until I was ten plus three  
I heard the choir as they sang  
    In robes of red and white  
“Adeste Fidelis” their voices rang  
    And “Oh Holy Night”

Plumes of incense filled the air  
    Candlelight bathed my face  
We paid homage to the Christ Child there  
    In that Christ Mass place  
I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
    That I could not forget  
I knew I could not tarry here  
    For I could hear them yet

I left my house on Christmas Day  
    Traveling with the holiday throng  
Going home, three hundred miles away  
    On a journey forty years long  
I had missed the Christmas pageantry  
    But, still, I could hardly wait  
I knew He would wait for me  
    And I could never be too late

W.E. Rowe, Jr. 12/88

## THE RESCUE

Almost everyone had made it into the lifeboats and was now picking up those who jumped into the water wearing lifejackets. This would not be another Titanic. The people in the water didn't have to worry about freezing to death; they just had to worry about sharks. The only ones left on board, and preparing to abandon ship was the captain and crew.

Most of the passengers had just sat down to breakfast when a powerful rogue wave hit the cruise ship broadside, and were thrown around. Many were injured, most were minor but several severe. The wave hit the ship broadside, leaving it listing with a hole in the portside. Captain Polar had everyone put on their lifejackets and prepare to abandon ship, just in case. The damage report showed they wouldn't make port, not with the breach below the waterline. It was taking on water too fast so he ordered everyone off the ship.

Once the crew was safely off the ship, the captain had all the lifeboats gather around his. It had a radio and he began sending out SOS's and their coordinates. After several hours, a ship answering the call appeared on the horizon, steaming towards them and everyone cheered. As the rescue ship got closer, they stopped cheering and stared in amazement. The ship that came to their rescue was an aircraft carrier, The Harry S. Truman. The Carrier crew helped the passengers on board where doctors were waiting for the injured. The others were taken to the mess hall for a hot meal.

Adrienne Mecklenburg

**CRITIQUED WRITING AT THE DALE ASSOCIATION (Senior Centre):**

**NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>---**

- |                      |   |                |  |
|----------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Jay Helwig           | - | novel excerpt  | - "Zara"                                 |
| Karen Fink           | - | poems          | - "Dragonfly", "Dancer"                  |
| Keith Casey          | - | flash fiction  | - "A Friend In Need"                     |
| Helene Lee           | - | article        | - "Why Writers Write" (My View)          |
| Bill Rowe            | - |                | - "Passing", "And That's The Way It Was" |
| Claudia Rowe         | - | chapter memoir |  |
| Wayne Hilton         | - | poem           | - "Thief"                                |
| Adrienne Mecklenburg | - | prose          | - "Don't Mess With A Senior Citizen"     |

**DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>---**

- |               |   |              |                             |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Helene Lee    | - | short story  | - "Hope"                    |
| Barbara Usiak | - | nonfiction   | - "Stage Rules"             |
|               | - | poem         | - "I Cry For My Children"   |
| Bill Rowe     | - | poem         | - "Seasoned Swain"          |
| Claudia Rowe  | - | poem         | - "From Our House To Yours" |
| Jay Helwig    | - | poem         | - "Salvation"               |
|               | - | short story  | - "Mystical Traveler"       |
| Wayne Hilton  | - | poem         | - "Visitors to the Stones"  |
|               | - | Sci-Fi story | - "Andrea Star"             |

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**KUDOS!!** - Annette Szymula - Writing Workshop--"Sprucing Up Your Words", Nov. 19, library.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:** DEC. 17 - Writing Competition Awards Presentation/Christmas Party – library:  
 JAN. 7 - Critiquing at Dale - Bill Rowe, Facilitator; JAN. 21 - Critiquing at library - Helene Lee, Facilitator;  
 FEB. 4th - Critiquing at Dale - Bill Rowe, Facilitator; FEB. 18 - COMEDY WORKSHOP - guest speaker, Gary O'Connor at library (Helene Lee – Facilitator).

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**2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$20.00 Dues will be due in January. See attached form.**

**INFORMATION\*\*\*EDUCATION\*\*\*SUPPORT\*\*\*CAMARADERIE**

**Information: Marti - facilitator - 434-3201, Bill – facilitator – 772-7627 – Karen F. – Editor – 433-7677**