



The Authority

Connecticut Authors & Publishers Association—Since 1994

Connecticut's Source for
Writing, Publishing &
Marketing Information

Volume 18 Issue 4

April 2011

Adele Annesi & Garrett Miller speak on Today's Market



The Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association (CAPA) presents an interactive seminar with editor and writer Adele Annesi and new author Garrett Miller on the ins and outs of the writing, editing and publishing process in today's market.

This seminar is for fiction and nonfiction writers, regardless of where you are in the writing, editing and publishing process. The talk includes a panel discussion and Q&A session. Prepare to be inspired.



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MEET A MEMBER Jan Atwood By Carol Keeney



She became an avid reader of the Scriptures and participated in the Kathryn Kuhlman Concert Choir in Ohio. Just the idea that writers could convey God's word through the written word was wonderful to Jan. Her mother encouraged Jan to follow her inclination to communicate and reach beyond herself to touch others

for good.

One of her role models, Maya Angelou, is considered one of the great voices of contemporary literature. I understood how Jan connected with this well loved writer, when I read this quote from Angelou's book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*: "A bird doesn't sing because it has an

Jan Atwood has known she was a writer since her teenage years. As a young girl she used poetry as a vehicle to express her feelings. This was a shy girl's way of "giving voice to the world." She used her poetry to express her feelings. Only comfortable sharing her writings anonymously, Jan would leave them in church pews and public places.

As a young person, Jan was interested in the Bible.



Bookstore Welcomes Books by

CAPA Authors!

Read about it on page 5.

Meetings

Southwest Division
Shelton
4/11/11

Adele Annesi & Garrett Miller

Main Meeting
Avon
4/16/11

Adele Annesi & Garrett Miller

Southeast Division
Groton
4/18/11

To be announced

Baking With Barb

by Barbara Klein



Yulia's Tres Leches Cake

In March CAPA celebrated its 17th anniversary and presented awards to the writing contest winners at a dinner instead of the regular CAPA meeting. It was a lovely party with wonderful music, dancing, and great Texas barbecue catered by Flaggstead Smokehouse. Since I missed the opportunity to cook for you, I have deferred the pleasure but, instead, am giving you a recipe that came highly recommended.

My son, Michael, recently married Yulia, a lovely young lady. She baked this cake for

his birthday and he says it was so yummy, he ate three pieces before dinner. He was so full he had to carry his steak home from the restaurant in a sack. Michael normally asks for "real" food when he's hungry and saves dessert for later, but that was not the case on this birthday. Try *Yulia's Tres Leches Cake*, but make sure you have lots of company to help you eat it. Otherwise you might be tempted to eat it all yourself.

Preheat the oven to 350°; spray a bundt pan with cooking spray and sprinkle with flour (or use the spray that contains the flour).

Ingredients for Cake:

1 box Pillsbury Moist Supreme Premium Cake Mix – Golden Butter

1¼ cups water
1/3 cup softened butter
3 eggs

Cream Syrup:

1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
½ cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon rum or brandy (optional)

Directions:

Pour all ingredients into a large mixing bowl and use mixer to blend until smooth. Pour into prepared pan and bake in preheated oven for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow cake to cool for 15 minutes. Then, using a fork, punch holes evenly in top. Slowly



pour half of Cream Syrup over cake. Cool for another 30 minutes. Use a knife to separate cake from the edges of the pan and carefully place it on a cake plate. Pour rest of cream mixture over the cake and refrigerate for one hour – if you can wait.

Hint: Top with cream cheese icing and good-quality shredded chocolate or use whipped cream and red raspberries for a slightly lighter taste.

I know you haven't tried this yet, but look what you have to look forward to in April – another drunk cake!

CAPA Board of Directors

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Article Submission

The Authority welcomes articles written by members. Here are some guidelines that we would encourage.

Topics may cover any aspect of writing, publishing and marketing. Your personal slant on this is of interest to all of us and welcome.

Articles should be no longer than 400 words. If the article is longer, the editors reserve the right to reduce the size or divide it into sections that would be run in successive issues. All articles will be edited. Submit single spaced with no built in formatting. Submit all articles to Peggy Gaffney at gaffney@kanineknits.com.

Send submissions for the **Meet A Member** column to Carol Healy at carolhealy@comcast.net

ARTICLES DUE BY THE 28TH OF THE MONTH

28TH OF THE MONTH

Authority Staff: Editor—Peggy Gaffney, Meet A Member Column—Carol Healy
Copy Editor—Rita Reali Staff Photographer—Deborah Kilday

Meet A Member: Jan Atwood

continued

answer, it sings because it has a song.”

Jan’s work experience reflects her wish to communicate and help others. She has worked as a guidance counselor and most recently held the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Staff Development in Mahopac, NY. She also holds a doctorate degree from Fordham University.

The writing process affords Jan the opportunity to come away from her daily life and reflect. This introspection influenced her first

book, which is a curriculum on character education supported by literacy lessons. *Teaching Character* was tri-authored and embraces high achievement strongly tempered with character values. This book is a powerful response to the problem of bullying in our schools. During this month Jan shared her book at the ASCD educational conference in San Francisco, California.

Jan presented *The Book of Love* to the public at the 2010 Big E. In *The Book of Love*, Jan shares her poetry

and addresses the challenge to communicate love. One visitor to the CAPA bookstore felt this book could help him create his own personal communiqué with a loved one. Both *Teaching Character* and *The Book of Love* were published with the help of fellow CAPA member Joe Keeney.

Jan encourages all writers to give voice to their lives through writing. She knows that words are a validation to an individual’s life journey. As a member of CAPA, Jan encourages us to do just that.

Writing Contest Winning Stories

are available to be read on the CAPA website.

Just go to:

<http://www.aboutcapa.com>



CAPA-U

May 7th is right around the corner and if you haven't signed up for CAPA-U yet,

DO IT NOW!!!

This year we have an outstanding lineup of speakers who were chosen for their ability to teach you how to advance your career as a writer.

So, if you haven't done so already, go to the CAPA website

<http://www.aboutcapa.com>

Download the brochure and application.

Once you have filed your application you will be sent exact directions on how to write your query letter (our directions were written by an agent). Then get it written and in to us so that when you meet with the agent you want, they will already be familiar with your work and you will be meeting as friends, rather than strangers.

Don't delay, time is running out!



Connecticut Authors & Publishers Assoc. University

May 7, 2011—Hartford Stearns Boiler Conference Center, Hartford

Keynote Speaker - Fantasy & Romance Author
Toni Andrews

"Everything I Know About the Writing Business, I Learned at the Office"

Plus 15 Workshops on Writing, Publishing & Marketing





Deborah Leland
"Social Networking and Blogging for Authors"



Jessica Anderson
"Work, Writing & TWT (not for Professionals)"



Wayne Estabill
"Write Your Book Now Using Computers"



Charly Monahan
"Writing for Magazines"



Kathryn Smith
"Writing Short Stories"



Patricia Skerby
"Go to Twitter! You Don't Know It"



Shirley Webb
"Writing Like You: Story World Characters"



Erin Johnson
"Working With an Editor"



Ann Collins
"Query Writing"



Brian Judd
"How to Write a Book"



Katherine Valentine
"Writing for the Christian Market"



Michael Leonard
"Writing With a Good Publisher"



Jillian Abshire
"Using Facebook to Market Your Novel and Blogging Post"



Jason Alvar
"Writing With Your Heart"



The Editors Panel - get your writing critiqued: Barbara DeLaney, Beth Deane, and Lisa Frank



Eight Literary Agents to meet one-on-one with authors!

For information and application go to: <http://www.aboutcapa.com/2011CAPA-U.htm>

Carol Higgins Clark

An Author Interview by CAPA Member Karen Rider



Weaving humor and suspense into a tapestry of eccentric characters and unusual storylines, Carol Higgins Clark has developed a signature style as a mystery writer. How did she learn to “go for the funny bone” in her own books while her mother, popular suspense novelist Mary Higgins Clark, “goes for the jugular”? The author of 13 novels featuring spunky sleuth, Regan Reilly, Carol describes her process for creating suspensefully funny mystery novels, how she deals with writer’s block and how she develops the characters who populate her books.

If you weren’t a writer, what else would you be doing with your life? I started retyping my mother’s books for her when I was in college. This was before computers. I learned so much from that experience and it led me into writing my own novels. If I weren’t a writer... well, I had started as an actress and still enjoy that too! As an actress I always liked doing comedy, and that’s what came out when I started to write. One of the best gifts my mother gave me and my four siblings was her sense of humor and ability to see the absurd even in the darkest situations. Seeing the funny side of life was something I learned early on.

Why mysteries? Have you thought about tackling another genre? At first it seemed natural that I would try a mystery because my mother was a suspense writer and I was familiar with that world. I wouldn’t say I’d never try anything else, but for now I want to keep going with Regan Reilly! Being in the same field as my mother has in many ways been wonderful. Of course, sometimes it can be difficult, like when so many people mistakenly call me Mary! My mother’s books are much scarier [than my books] but when we write the Christmas books together, we use a lighter tone. My mother has a great sense of humor and loves to let it go when we write the holiday books.

Is it difficult to co-write with such a beloved author who happens to be your mother? Writing with my mother is much easier than people might think. We write every word together. We both do extensive research on the locales and themes of our novels. Where we differ is style – my mother’s thrillers are meant to scare people, while a comic thread runs through my books. We put my character Regan Reilly with a character my mother has used in short stories, Alvirah Meehan. Alvirah is a cleaning woman who won \$40 million in the lottery and is now an amateur sleuth. She’s very funny and my mother loves the chance to let Alvirah loose!

What is your writing schedule? When I am really into a book, I write every day. I usually spend at least four or five hours. Then when I’m getting toward the end, I sometimes write all day and into the

night. That’s when the characters really take over!

On Writer’s Block. The toughest aspect of writing is starting a new book. All authors want to come up with fresh ideas and characters unlike any they’ve used before. If I feel as if I have writer’s block, I sometimes do research on the general topic [related to] my book. Often something I read can trigger an idea, and hopefully one idea leads to another!

Process. To Outline or Not? I don’t outline, but I have a general idea of what the whole book is about and how long the action takes – whether it’s a few days or a few weeks. Once I have a general idea, I build a story around [it]. I revise along the way and then revise again at the end.

Ideas & Characters. One of my ideas came from attending a pantyhose convention! That became *Snagged*. I was in New York during the blackout of 2003 and used that experience in *Zapped*.

I don’t base characters on anyone I know but I might take a personality trait or a mannerism of someone I know and build a character around that. Again, I liked doing comedy as an actor, so many of my characters have certain eccentric qualities!

I always saw Regan Reilly as a series character. I thought it would be fun to make her a private investigator with a sense of humor. I used to live in Los Angeles, so that’s where I had Regan living at the beginning of the series. I also made her mother a mystery writer! In

Hitched, Regan and Jack get married. I thought it would be interesting if Regan went to pick up her dress a week before the wedding only to find the designers tied up, and five brides’ dresses stolen. In *Laced*, I send Regan and Jack to Ireland for their honeymoon where thieves await them. In *Wrecked*, they go to Cape Cod for a romantic weekend to celebrate their one-year anniversary but it turns out to be anything but romantic!

Advice. I think the best advice for an aspiring writer is to write! Just do it. Keep a journal, take a class and write every day. Read the kind of books you’d like to write. I’m not saying to copy anyone’s style, but if you want to write romance novels, then read as many of them as you can. The same with mysteries. Don’t edit yourself too much. I would also be careful about who you ask to read your work for feedback. That’s why it’s good to take a class. If a well-meaning friend makes a discouraging comment about what you’ve written, you might never forget it!

Novels by Carol Higgins Clark. *Decked*, *Snagged*, *Iced*, *Twanged*, *Fleeced*, *Jinxed*, *Popped*, *Burned*, *Hitched*, *Laced*, *Zapped*, *Cursed* and *Wrecked*.

Novels co-written with Mary Higgins Clark. *Deck the Halls* (where Regan meets Jack. It was written after she wrote *Twanged*.), *He Sees You When You’re Sleeping*, *The Christmas Thief*, *Santa Cruise* and *Dashing Through the Snow*.

Millrace Bookshop Welcomes Books by CAPA Authors!

By Mike Kilday

Looking to sell more books? Want your books to be on display on the shelves of a well-known local bookstore? Want to be invited to give book talk and autograph your books? Well, here is your chance!

A new opportunity for CAPA authors has just been launched by CAPA members Debbie and Mike Kilday. CAPA has officially partnered with the Millrace Bookshop, along the scenic Farmington River in Farmington – not far from where CAPA meets. The bookstore's owners have agreed to designate a section of the shop just for CAPA authors. This is a fantastic chance for our members to showcase and sell their books.

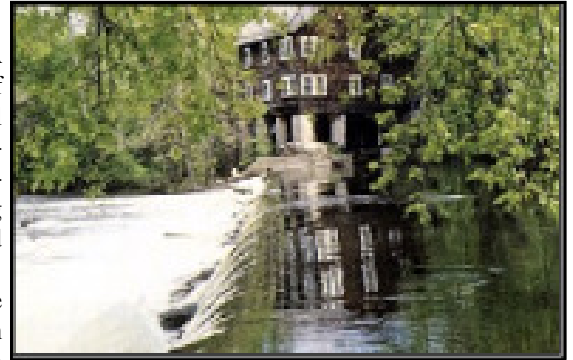
Entering its 40th year of operation, Millrace Bookshop is a long-established independent bookshop located in an

upscale section of Farmington.

Authors who are CAPA members may take advantage of this bookshop's facility; they will not only have their books available for sale but may also schedule individual book-signing events – which can help build their marketing platforms.

This program at Millrace Bookshop will be launched on May 1, 2011. If you want to be in on the ground floor of this opportunity, sign up now. The registration application, along with all details about fees and other pertinent information may be found on the official CAPA website at www.aboutcapa.com.

Since 1994, the Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association (CAPA) has been helping writers of all



abilities through its services, support and creating a sense of community for all of its members to benefit.

Throughout the past seventeen years, successful programs like CAPA University (CAPA-U) and the CAPA Big E Bookstore have created outlets for our authors to become known and to sell their books.

Adele's Connections - Web Help for Writers by Adele Annesi

Here is this month's list of "must-fave" online resources for writers of all genres.

Combined Book Exhibit

www.combinedbook.com: This promotion company helps publishers market their books via fairs worldwide. Services come at a cost, but CBE has been around for 75 years. If you're researching tradeshows to promote your book, the site is worth checking out.

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, Arts Division

www.cultureandtourism.org: This site offers grants and helps build arts communities statewide. It also provides training and professional development.

Constant Contact

www.constantcontact.com: This e-mail marketing site helps clients stay connected with customers and offers an easy, inexpensive starting

package.

Foundation Center

<http://foundationcenter.org>: Established in 1956, the center is the leading source of information on grants worldwide. It has five regional centers and 450 information centers.

PRLog.com

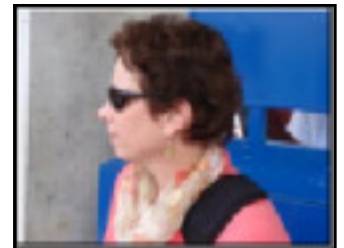
www.prlog.org: PR Log is a free, online press release submission and distribution service. It includes Google News and is fast, easy and effective for getting the word out.

Spannet

www.spannet.org: SPAN is a nonprofit association that supports self-published authors and independent publishers. SPAN offers social networking, promotion, course outlines, audio presentations, webinars, an article library and more at a reasonable cost.

Wattpad

www.wattpad.com: Wattpad boasts the world's most popular e-book community, connecting millions of readers with 100,000 new works monthly. It enables readers to access what they want to read, and provides an open ideas



platform for readers and writers.

To share a trusted site, contact Adele at a.annesi@sbcglobal.net.

Writing Contest Winners Announced



Pictured are some of the winners of the **Jerry Labriola-Brian Jud Annual Writing Competition**. From left to right are Jim Norton, first place for Poetry; Francine Morlando, second place for Children's Writing; Hanna Perlstein Marcus, first place for Short Story; Mike Kilday, second place for Poetry and Dan Uitti, contest chairman. Visit www.aboutcapa.com to read their work.

Member's Adventure at the Virginia Festival of the Book



This was my third time attending the 17-year-old Virginia Festival of the Book – and, once again, it didn't

disappoint.

Held in Charlottesville and Albemarle County over five full days, it's the largest educational book event in the mid-Atlantic with authors, publishers, illustrators and storytellers who come from all over the country – and this year from as far away as Ireland (John Connolly and Anne Enright, both of whom I was lucky enough to meet).

According to festival director Susan Coleman, the event draws

more than 20,000 people over the course of the week with Saturday – Crime Wave Day – arguably being the busiest. One of the high points of that day was the Crime Wave luncheon with guest speaker Kathy Reichs.

After determining that almost all of the 300 or so lunchtime diners had either read at least one of her books or had seen the television show *Bones* (based on her bestselling Temperance Brennan series) Reichs launched into a series of fascinating stories that explained the genesis of each of her books.

My own panel, *Death with a Sense of Humor*, played to a packed house and featured best-selling authors Donna Andrews, Ellen Byerrum, Ellery Adams and me. Always a favorite topic at mystery events, readers everywhere seem to enjoy their homicides best when laced with a little

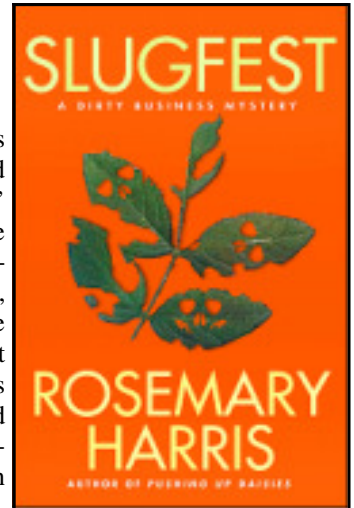
humor.

Saturday's festivities wrapped up with an authors' reception at the landmark Paramount Theatre, where I had the opportunity to chat with mystery pals Alan Orloff, Brad Parks, Carla Buckley and Meredith Cole.

Next stop: Santa Fe for Left Coast Crime's Big Chile!

Rosemary Harris is the Anthony/Agatha-nominated author of the Dirty Business mystery series featuring amateur sleuth Paula Holliday. Her debut novel, *Pushing Up Daisies* is now available on Kindle and her latest book, *Slugfest*, will be released on April 12, 2011.

Visit her at www.rosemaryharris.com, www.jungleredwriters.com or her facebook page, *Rosemary Harris writer*. Follow her on Twitter @[rosemaryharris1](https://twitter.com/rosemaryharris1).



Brag Board



Randy Kaye announced that the official publication date for her book, *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope* has now been confirmed: September 16, 2011. It's available for pre-order now on Amazon and all the major bookseller websites.



Carole Shmurak has taken back the rights to her three mysteries from her publisher and has re-released two of them (*Deadmistress* and *Death at Hilliard High*) under her own imprint via CreateSpace. The third will be out in a month. The first two are doing very well on Amazon and especially Kindle. Blogs are <http://deadmistress.wordpress.com/>, <http://deathbycommittee.wordpress.com/>



Jason Alster has been invited to give a talk on book video trailers at CAPA SE Groton on April 18th. The two CAPA networking meetings went very well at the Wethersfield Library. The next meeting will be Monday April 25th at the Wethersfield Library. He has been invited to be a radio guest on Barry Eva's "A book and a Chat" on May 26th about his newly released video, "Being In Control: Natural Solutions for ADHD, Dyslexia, and Test Anxiety."

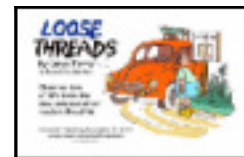
Julia Antoine announces the publication of her new book *State of Ecstasy* which she writes under a pseudonym.



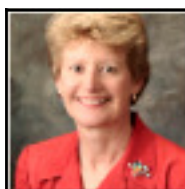
Brag Board



Dave Ferry told us, “My cartoon paperback *Loose Threads: Observations of Life from the Slow Lane and Other Random Thoughts* won a Silver Medal in the 2010 **Independent Publisher Book Awards in NYC** for the category of Graphic Novel/Drawn Book-Humor/Cartoon. The book is a collection of full color cartoon observations of Rule Followers, day-by-day coping with what life throws at them, ever trying to get a break on the ‘Highway of Life.’ My work can be seen on my website www.ferryland.net.”



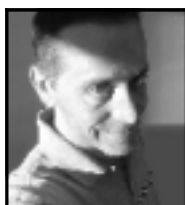
Heidi Schlatter is fulfilling her promise of a \$1.00 donation per book sold to the organization that rescued her title animal. She’s sold 489 books – so with an additional \$11, she gave them a check for \$500!



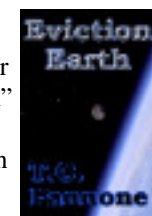
Member **Janet Lawler’s** latest children’s book releases in August 2011 from Jumping Jack Press. *Silly Ghosts* will pop out of this Halloween book to entertain, more than scare, little readers.



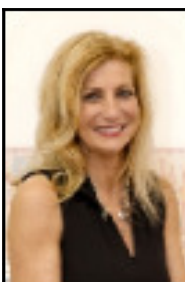
Matthew Goldman’s *Vincus the Invisible Visits Planet Earth* will be going to press in another week. Join Vincus the griffin as he journeys to The Other End of the Endless Forest to help rescue a most endangered species. And don’t forget to eat lots and lots of maple pistachio birch beer raspberry ripple. Matthew Goldman, a.k.a. Constant Waterman, is an author and illustrator. Visit him online at <http://www.constantwaterman.com>



Todd Pannone (pen name TC Pannone) is proud to announce his first sci-fi/fantasy book for adults and young adults. *Eviction Earth* takes a different approach to the “asteroid hitting Earth” story and instead takes you on an epic adventure in which the moon gets hit by an asteroid. It’s unlike any asteroid story you have read before. Check it out in paper and/or Kindle, available on Amazon or stop by his blog and comment on it. www.EvictionEarth.blogspot.com



Richard Radune’s book *Sound Rising* challenges our perception of Long Island Sound in many surprising ways. The Sound was at the forefront of American trade with the West Indies and its location placed it in a position to influence the course of history during the critical years between 1750 and 1820. Its multitude of small ports, coves and navigable rivers provided a distinct advantage by thwarting British efforts to enforce trade restrictions and collect taxes. Merchants’ desire for free trade and the avoidance of Customs duties set the stage for war. Long Island Sound played a crucial role in America’s Revolutionary War victory when its naval vessels, privateers and whaleboat raiders swarmed out of these same ports to interdict British supplies and force major changes in the enemy’s strategic war plans. Long Island Sound became no man’s land and an emotional vortex of “Whaleboat War” involving refugees from each side of the Sound.



The National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) inducted CAPA author **Catherine Gibson** into their ranks of “VIP Women of the Year” in recognition of the strides made in her professional achievements and for displaying the highest level of support of NAPW’S commitment to networking and community involvement. Cathy is the author of *Through Sophie’s Eyes*, *Sophie Discovers Synchronized Swimming* and *Coach Bob & Me*. She works with deaf children teaching dance.



The ABCs of the Editing Process: Dazzle Your Writing Using Initialisms!

By Roberta Buland

Initialisms – the new synonym for abbreviations – won't be OK with spell check, yet! But, thanks to the OED, the Oxford English Dictionary – the “authority” of the English-speaking world, including usually American English – they're in the news! Once an abbreviation or acronym comes into common usage on both sides of the pond, it is acceptable to use, at least colloquially, in dialogue for sure, and in informal writing, as long as readers know what they stand for.

Spurned by character limit per text message, popular initialisms include OMG, oh my God (and sometimes goodness or gosh for those who don't wish to use the Divine in speaking or writing); LOL, laughing out loud; and FYI, for your information. In my humble opinion, IMHO, is also commonly used, although one commentator remarked, “But who admits to being humble?” I am not sure that Shakespeare would approve of using them; but he's dead, and English continues to live and evolve.

Many might consider

these recent coinages associated only with Gen-X and other younger generations conversant in all forms of digital communications. Yet, OED's research has revealed some unexpected historical perspectives: OMG is from a personal letter of 1917; LOL had a previous life, starting in 1960, denoting an elderly woman, or little old lady; and the entry for FYI shows it originated in a memo written in 1941. Other familiar entries in the OED are TMI, too much information; and BFF, best friends forever with its many connotations! From my first job in publishing, writing definitions for a new words dictionary, I learned that documentation makes new words – and initialisms – creditable.

WAG, wives and girlfriends, is a particularly interesting initialism to me, especially since most women in my circles are or have been both! WAG made an extremely fast journey from its introduction in 2002, when the British Sunday Telegraph reported that the staff at the England footballers' pre-World Cup training camp referred to the players' part-

ners collectively as “Wags.” The term then remained relatively dormant until the 2006 World Cup in Germany saw an explosion of usage, as the women, including Victoria Beckham and Colleen McLoughlin (now Colleen Rooney), were a visible element of the English team's presence, especially to the media. Debates raged in the newspapers about whether the women distracted the footballers alongside an equal fascination with what they were buying and wearing. It became a byword for the female partners of male professionals in many other spheres also, often connoting a glamorous or extravagant lifestyle. In the 2007 OED's paragraph about the entry, WAG, it says the general readership could be expected to understand sentences such as “Dresses, unless you're a Wag, are best worn with small heels instead of stilettos,” and “Not only did the WAGs attend tournaments, they [also] had to do so without drinking.” Are the British really such prudes?

Ten years ago, these initialisms would have been utterly baffling. Some new words do not rise so quickly in



usage, but the use of WAG demonstrates that print media can still influence the ways in which language is used, even in the age of social networking.

So, my writing friends, a whole new vocabulary is now acceptable. Enjoy the new-found language, initialisms, and I promise not to delete them from your manuscripts!

Watch for other new words in a future column.

Comments about this or any aspect of editing or publishing? Contact me at rjbuland@comcast.net

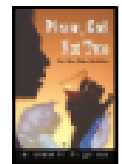
Roberta J. Buland is the owner-editor of RIGHT WORDS UNLIMITED, a full-service editorial and publishing services firm in West Hartford. She is a past president of CAPA and may also be reached at 860-308-2550.

Brag Board

continued



Alberta Sequeria works to fight the disease we call Alcoholism with her two books *Someone Stop This Merry-Go-Round: An Alcoholic Family in Crisis* and *Please, God, Not Two: This Killer Called Alcoholism*, both published by Infinity Publishing.



Roberta J. Buland will be speaking at three separate venues in the next few weeks. On May 7 she will be part of the **Editors Panel at CAPA-U**. On June 11, Roberta will be speaking at the Connecticut branch of the **Romance Writers of America** and on June 18, she will be speaking on Editing to the **Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association** at their Avon meeting place.