

The Authority

Connecticut Authors & Publishers Association—Since 1994

Connecticut's Source for
Writing, Publishing &
Marketing Information

Volume 17 Issue 12

December 2010

CAPA to Host Annual Christmas Party



Come one, come all to the annual CAPA Christmas Party at the Sycamore Hills Park Community Center, at

635 West Avon Road, Avon. The party begins at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 18 and goes until 12:30 p.m.

All CAPA members are invited — and guests are welcome. This will be a meeting where good cheer reigns and social networking will be conducted the old-fashioned way: face to face.

CAPA provides the sandwiches and drinks and invites everyone to bring their own special dishes — appetizers and desserts — to share with other revelers.

This meeting is the best time to talk to other authors, get your questions answered and meet members who are new.

Inside This Issue

Baking With Barb p. 2

Southwest CAPA December Meeting Speaker: Editor Beth Bruno p. 3

Adele's Connections: Web Help for Writers p. 4

Kristan Higgins to Speak at January Meeting at the Avon Middle School p. 4

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings p. 5

Book Trailers: A Novel Way to Promote Your Book p. 5

Infinity and Beyond: On How to Write Science Fiction p. 6

Brag Board pp. 6-7

ABCs of the Editing Process: Your Dictionary.com p. 8

Last Call for Writing Contest Entries Deadline Dec. 23, 2010

Our 2010-2011 Annual Writing Competition is now underway. Winning can really boost your marketability and help you get published. We will also publish your winning entry at the CAPA website. Top prize in each category is \$100. In

addition to the categories of Short Story, Personal Essay and Poetry, we have included a special Children's Story division for those who wish to submit stories intended for young readers.

The deadline for entering your unpublished work is

December 23rd. Entries are \$10 each. Check the website for details and to review the contest rules and entry form at www.aboutcapa.com/writing_contest.htm. You may download the form at www.aboutcapa.com/2011WritingCompetitionForm.pdf.

MEET A MEMBER Bruce Barton by Carol Healy



As a fan of all things equine I was excited to meet new CAPA member, Bruce Barton, a writer who shares my enthusiasm for historical fiction and the American

Old West. This Bristol, Connecticut author enjoys unleashing his imagination and writing about times where a dependable horse was as important as a sturdy pair of boots.

Born and raised in New Haven County, this month's CAPA Meet A Member subject also spent some time overseas in his youth. In 1968, Barton graduated from Hamden High School and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy. Memories from his

three combat tours to Vietnam (1968-72) still serve as a source of inspiration for his stories and characters today.

Retired after 30 years at the Coca-Cola Company, Barton began seriously devoting time to his craft in 2008. In two short years he has already finished an action/thriller and a Western with elements of historical fiction. Bruce has also written several short sto-

continued on page 3

Meetings

Southwest Division
Shelton
12/13

Main Meeting
Avon
12/18

Southeast Division
Groton
12/20

See page 5 for details

Baking With Barb

by Barbara Klein

Orzo and Bulgur Salad

Several recipes on the menu at CAPA in November were hits; one in particular was healthful as well.

I thought perhaps some people would like to add this to their holiday food list and alleviate some of the guilt. Instead of eating two desserts, try the salad and one dessert. This dish contains cranberries, one of our essential foods for Thanksgiving, and it is brilliant red, which makes it an ideal accent item for Christmas. After all, visual appeal is almost as important as flavor in foods. Remember those lunch-room meals of brown and yellow — hot dogs, baked beans and corn? Make your plates healthy with a rainbow of food.

Years ago, I found this winning recipe in a women's magazine. Now the paper is old and yellowed, but the recipe is just as timely as ever. I've added some sliced, toasted almonds to the mix for more protein and texture. Enjoy the combination or make changes of your own — be adventuresome!

1 cup multicolored orzo
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 cup bulgur
 ½ cup finely chopped celery
 ½ cup slivered carrots
 ½ cup chopped English cucumbers
 ½ cup dried cranberries
 1/3 cup olive oil
 ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
 ½ cup coarsely chopped parsley
 2 tablespoons minced red onion
 1 teaspoon sugar
 1 teaspoon dry mustard
 ¼ cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)
 ¼ cup chopped green onions
 ¼ cup honey-roasted sliced almond

Cook the orzo according to package directions. Meanwhile, place the bulgur in a two-cup glass measure and pour enough hot water from the orzo to fill the container to the two-cup mark. Allow the bulgur to set for 45 minutes until the water is absorbed while you chop the vegetables. Drain the rest of the water

from the orzo through a sieve, so as not to lose it down the drain. Put the orzo in a large bowl and add the celery, carrots, cucumber, red and green onion, parsley and cranberries. Mix in bulgur. In a small bowl, combine olive oil, vinegar, sugar, mustard and salt. Pour over other salad ingredients, mix and adjust seasoning. Cover and chill at least four hours or overnight. Stir and top with feta cheese before serving, if desired. Here's your rainbow of flavor and nutrition!



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Article Submission

The Authority welcomes articles written by members. Here are some guidelines we encourage you to follow.

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

Meet A Member column info should be sent to Carol Healy at carolhealy@comcast.net

**ARTICLES ARE DUE BY
 THE 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: Bruce Barton

continued

ries and articles for the children's market and is currently working on a new historical fiction novel.

Barton shares that, "Forming a scene from an idea, developing characters and utilizing my imagination to its fullest potential," are what interest him most about writing. He appreciates the opportunity to relive some of his experiences through his manuscripts and admits that some research is fun. While he does some of his own editing, final editing is one of those

tasks he deems best left to professionals. Fortunately, some of his fellow CAPA members are editors.

For Barton, every meeting of CAPA has been a learning experience. Joining CAPA has taken him from the solitary role of writer and put him in touch with other authors who face similar challenges. "I no longer feel like a lonely minnow in a shark pool," he attests. There are many experienced authors in the group, who are willing to share how they have successfully

navigated through the daunting waters of the publishing world.

One of the first things he discovered after joining CAPA was that there is still much more to learn. As Barton's writing career grows, he would certainly appreciate help in getting his short stories and novels published for the first time. He would also like to learn more about the marketing aspect of writing. By attending CAPA meetings, networking with members and considering CAPA-U, Bruce Barton is positioned for success.

If you are a new member and have not had a **Meet A Member** column written about you, please contact Carol Healy at share@authorsandpublishersct.ning.com

Southwest CAPA - December Meeting Speaker: Editor Beth Bruno



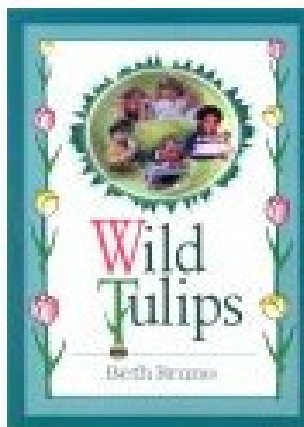
We are pleased to announce that at the December 13th meeting we will have developmental book editor and former CAPA president Beth Bruno speak on the topic of Independent Publishing. Mark your calendars now, as you won't want

to miss Beth's insights into the world of editing and publishing.

After twenty years in education and human services fields, Beth Bruno began a second career in 1995 as a columnist, author and book editor. Hundreds of her articles have been published in print and online, and her first book, *Wild Tulips*, came out in 2001 and went into a second printing in 2002. Beth's proximity to New York and her position as President of the Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association give her unique access to literary agents and publishers in and around New York City. Several of the authors whose manuscripts she has edited have been published in the main-

stream, thanks to her referrals on their behalf. Beth's editing interests are eclectic and include a delicious mix of fiction, nonfiction, young adult and children's works.

Meetings of the Southwest CAPA chapter are held at the Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.



Come, one
and all, to
the annual
CAPA
Christmas
Party!

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



The Connections column on the best of the Web is back, featuring the latest in online

resources.

The Alliance of Artists Communities (<http://www.artistcommunities.org/>) is an international association of artists' communities with 1,000 programs supporting artists in creative work. If you're looking for a residency somewhere fun and exotic, this is the resource to check.

Betsy Lerner wrote the must-read **The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers** (<http://betsylerner.wordpress.com/forest-for->

the-trees/), on which her blog-style website is based. It answers key questions on writing and publishing, and you can send questions for response.

The Connecticut Reading Association (<http://users.nplx.net/~ctread/>) seeks to advance literacy throughout the state and sponsors the annual Connecticut Reading Conference.

Pro blogger (<http://www.problogger.net/>) is a resource-packed site, with free tips, links and resources. It also offers social networking for bloggers to collaborate, learn and network in a private forum.

Your First Page (<http://yourfirstpage.blogspot.com/>) is an es-

sential craft forum where emerging and established authors can submit the first page of their novels for a free critique from author and teacher extraordinaire Peter Selgin.



The Writer Magazine (<http://www.writermag.com>) is a paid subscription publication that offers a great free e-newsletter.

Tip: *Many of their archived articles are available free.*

*If you have a trusted site to share, or if you'd like to do a guest post for my blog **Word for Words** (<http://wordforwords.blogspot.com/>), contact me at a.annesi@sbcglobal.net.*

Kristan Higgins to Speak at January CAPA Meeting at the Avon Middle School



Kristan Higgins, outstanding writer of humorous romance fiction will be speaking to CAPA in January. She tells about herself.

I live in a small Connecticut town with a beautiful library, a great agricultural fair, nice people and not much else. I have two lovely, entertaining children and a brave firefighter for a husband, who is, perhaps

more importantly, a fantastic cook. Digger from *Fools Rush In* is inspired my very own Digger, our cheerful Lab mutt. We also have two cats and grieve for an occasional, short-lived beta fish.

I worked as a copywriter until I had kids and started writing fiction when my children graced my life with simultaneous afternoon naps. Writing, I surmised, was infinitely more satisfying than folding laundry, and so I started my first novel. Before long, I had finished *Stalking Joe*, whose title was later changed to *Fools Rush In*, and have been writing ever since. *Catch of the Day* and *Too Good To Be True* both received the huge honor of winning the Romance Writers of America RITA Award, which is the Oscar of romance writing. Can't tell you how thrilling that was!

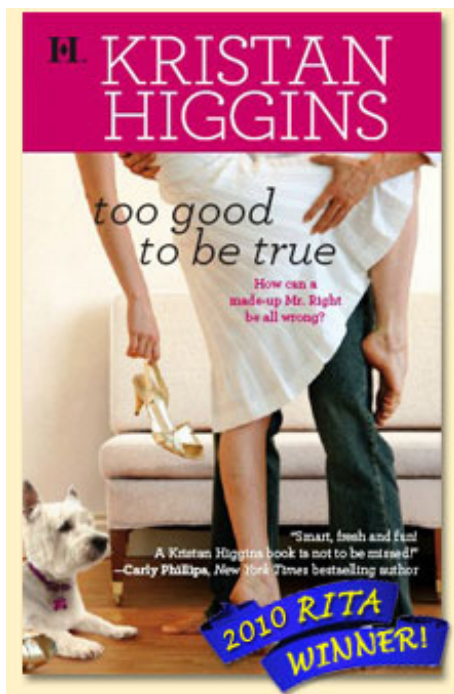
I love to write books about relationships, since the

search for love and security is one of the driving forces of life. My characters are regular people, folks like us, and I hope to give them a big, memorable love story rich with family, pets, food and laughter.

When I'm not writing, I like to be with my kids, goof around with my husband, read, watch baseball, ride my bike and bake. I suffer from chronic bed head and an unhealthy (and completely understandable) obsession with Derek Jeter, shortstop for the New York Yankees. Like Millie Barnes, I run, which provides the neighbors with some real entertainment.

We spend as

much time as possible at our family home on Cape Cod, swimming in the Atlantic, shivering on the beach, swatting horseflies and watching fish evade my lure at Higgins Pond. It's as close to heaven as it gets.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings/Special Announcements

CAPA-SE MEETINGS:

- Dec 20 Christmas Party (we will need a volunteer to chair this successful event.)
 Jan. 18 LaGrua Center, Stonington
 Feb. 15 LaGrua Center, Stonington
 Mar through June: Groton Public Library, Groton, CT

CAPA CENTRAL MEETINGS:

- Dec. 18 Christmas Party
 Jan. 15 **Kristan Higgins**, best-selling romance writer
 *This meeting will be held at the cafeteria of the Avon Middle School.
 Feb. 19 TBA
 Mar. 19 Annual Anniversary/Writing Contest Awards Dinner 6-9 p.m.

CAPA SOUTHWEST MEETINGS:

- Dec. 13 Developmental book editor and former CAPA president
Beth Bruno speaks on Independent Publishing.
 Jan. 10 TBA

Notice

The CAPA Central Meeting

January 15
will be held
in the cafeteria of
Avon Middle
School

375 West Avon Road
Avon, CT 06001

Book Trailers: A Novel Way to Promote Your Book by Jason Alster

Book trailers enable you to promote your book as an entertaining mini movie that positions the book in hopes of enticing the viewer to purchase a copy. A book trailer is a tool to help the author establish presence by driving traffic to the author site. This may be done by posting the book trailer on YouTube and then embedding the trailer in emails, social networks, webpages, blogs and DVD for showings at author signings.

A good book trailer will succeed in capturing the concept and mood of the book and, as a result, increase interest in the book. So will using appropriate words for internet search engines and the right photos to hook the viewer immediately.

The big question is, Do book trailers really increase sales? Well, do advertisements lead to sales? Why, yes, if they are used as part of a package to brand the author, and if the book has content that peo-

ple are interested in. A book trailer is, in effect, a small advertisement.

A professional who makes book trailers is called a book trailer designer. When you engage a book trailer designer, this person will usually have you answer a set of questions that will help him or her determine what kind of look the trailer will have.

Some sample questions may be, "Who is your main audience?"; "What impact will the book have on its readers?"; "What will readers learn from this book?"

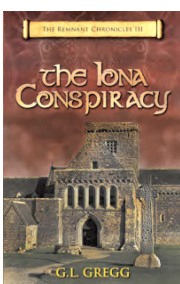
A book trailer also allows for the human connection, as viewers may have the opportunity to leave comments, and the number of viewers may be tracked. One strategy used to increase presence is to produce

a series of trailers for a single book: one that presents the book's content, another with the author reading, followed by the story behind the story or a short author interview. I personally decided to design book trailers because it integrates my interests in authoring, publishing, art and book marketing.



Brag Board

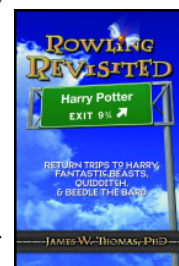
CAPA member **Robert Trexler** published three books in the last five weeks: *The Order of Harry Potter: Literary Skill in the Hogwarts Epic* (Winged Lion Press) In this dazzling new study, Colin Manlove looks at the Hogwarts books in terms of their readability, their literary value and their many meanings. Here you will find chapters on how much they owe to Christian fantasy and to alchemy; on what makes them page-turners; on the consequences of their interest in magic and imagination; on their love of change; and on the ordering of each book and the whole series through recurrent motifs and ideas. **About the author:** Colin Manlove is the author of over a dozen books including *From Alice to Harry Potter* (a survey of 400 English fantasy books) and *C.S.*



Lewis: His Literary Achievement. Colin lives in Scotland, within walking distance of where J.K. Rowling began writing the Harry Potter series.

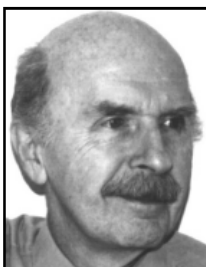
The Iona Conspiracy (Winged Lion Press) In this young-adult novel by G.L. Gregg, Jacob Boyd's life as a Bearer of a sacred sporran has just grown much more dangerous as an enemy tracks him down and his friends find themselves trapped at a summer camp gone mad. Building a new relationship with his dragon pug protector, Jacob must act with courage and conviction or much more will be lost than just Iona Academy. *The Iona Conspiracy* follows Jacob on his efforts to save his friends on two continents as he struggles to discover and then protect the long lost secrets of the medieval Book of Kells.

Rowling Revisited (Zossima Press) Dr. James W. Thomas is the author of *Repotting Harry Potter: A Professor's Guide for the Serious Re-Reader*. Readers of that book will find in *Rowling Revisited* additional insights as Professor Thomas revisits the seven Potter books. Once again, he focuses on humor, puns, foreshadowing and literary parallels and echoes in Harry's saga. *Rowling Revisited* also provides readers with insight to and analysis of Rowling's three ancillary books, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*. Especially useful in *Rowling Revisited* are three extensive appendixes, "Fantastic Beasts and the Pages Where You'll Find Them," "Quidditch Through the Pages" and "The Books in the Potter Books." These listings include all significant references in the Harry Potter books to magical creatures, to Quidditch and to Beedle the Bard and all the other books that magic folk read.



Infinity and Beyond: On How to Write Science Fiction

by Joe Vojt



The psychology of working with people creates opportunities for lifestyle embellishments in the world of fiction; science fiction and mystery are but an example. There are no limits. You may draw from history, photography, music or even the sciences. Current events turn into history that guides the future by allowing the thought process to move into the next stage. Creating concepts of what the mind's eye sees is what a writer replicates. Every stop, every thought, leads the intellect to con-

tinue. Technology and imagination complete the cycle of a writer.

Writing is never a lonely art form if you allow it to enchant what your perception offers. My rules in the creative process have increased through time, similar to vintage wine. There are good years and there are acceptable years, but the fortitude is to always move forward. This never stops until there is no path of air running through the body and spirit. Life experiences begin the creativity of the psyche. Love what you create and it will love you back. That is essential. Success has meaning only when it comes from the heart and soul of an innermost drive to release what only you the writer can accomplish freely and

with emotion. This creates the substance of who we are and how we feel about our freedom. We never should allow others to crush our dreams.

Following is an example of how I organized my human knowledge by using technology. I tried to answer the three cores for my science fiction novels.

First is "What if?" "What if an invisible society began the earth?" "What if the occupying population of the United States could no longer use all their known technology?"

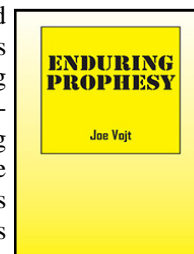
Next is "If Only." If only the normal population in NuNac accepted the Triskalon Society by becoming aware that another society could exist hidden in the darkness of the day. "If only the Constitution provided equal rights to the

Native Americans."

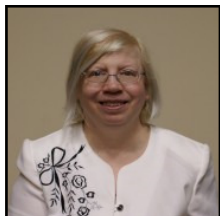
Third is, "If the population ignores the possibility of another society, could the world survive?" "If the United States does nothing and continues treating the Native Americans as outcasts in the upcoming years."

These are the core elements of my two stories.

Check out my website <http://www.authorsden.com/joevojt>. It includes my bio background, novels, short stories, articles and events. I am a member of CAPA, the Connecticut Authors & Publishers Association.



Brag Board



Jean Marie Rusin has begun her own online talk-radio show. Her first show was on November 17th and the second on the 24th. The show has a half-hour format, from 10:30 to 11 pm. The first show was about her books, but successive shows will feature guests and will enable listeners to call in. Jean Marie invites all who would like to be guests to contact her. She has also become a member of the Cambridge Who's Who. She has finished her latest novel entitled *Long Silky Blonde Girl*. Jean Marie wants to thank Mike and Debbie Kilday for all their work with the Big E. She had a wonderful time.

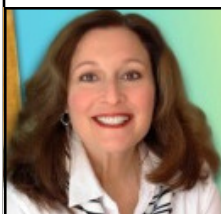


An essay by **David Garnes** was featured in the December issue of the magazine "America in WWII." In the article David describes one of his earliest memories: Keeping the family Christmas tree up for many weeks after Christmas 1945 in expectation of his father's return from the Pacific (He finally arrived home in mid-February 1946).

Jason Alster just wanted to share his new book trailer for his memoir. Please pass around and put up on your facebook pages too. If you know of an author that needs book trailers he is presently doing this for other authors too. Thanks , Jason Alster <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPrIIWxpcAs>. Looking at changes in American and Israeli cultures over the last two decades, *Leaving Home, Going Home, Returning Home: A Hebrew American's Sojourn in the Land of Israel* is an intelligent study of Israeli life, identity, roots and culture from a Hebrew American's experience and offers a unique perspective on what is quirky, endearing, baffling and infuriating about Israeli culture. A seasoned world traveler, Jason Mark Alster, M.Sc shares his adventures of moving half way around the world to Israel (Aliyah). Readers are reminded on every page that moving to a new place, or even moving back home, is not about courage or determination; it is about anticipation and the joy of discovery, new places, new friends and new dreams. It's a true adventure book about seeking roots following your dreams. If you want a better understanding of life in Israel, this book is for you! View excerpt at: <http://jasonalster.googlepages.com/leavinghome,goinghome,returninghome>.



Author **Michael L. Kilday** has recently had an article published in *The Door Opener* magazine's 2010-2011 Winter edition. It is entitled *Truth Never Changes: Earth Changes*, the same title as his book, which was published in 2009. The article reveals the circumstances which prompted and shaped the book's writing. It primarily focuses upon what changes are in store, their purpose and what humanity can do to prepare for them. *The Door Opener* magazine is available at local New Age/Spiritualist shops as well as Whole Foods, local book stores and national book outlets like Borders Books. www.anopendoor.com. Michael's website address is www.trueearthchanges.com.



It is always great when authors and friends can get together and spend time visiting, as well as working at autographing books and making friends for our writing. Such was the case when four CAPA writers were invited to take part in the **Stamford/Norwalk Junior League Winter Fair**. **Doreen Tango Hampton** was there with her book, *I Like Gum*. **Gillian Collings**, a.k.a. **Frances Gilbert**, was there with her mysteries and children's picture books, including the latest, *Elephant Blue*, plus a new CD of stories. **Stacy Lytwyn Maxwell** was at the fair with her book, *Consummate Connecticut*. And, finally **Peggy Gaffney** was on hand with her knitting books, including the latest *The Crafty Cat Knits*, as well as her book on self publishing. All four were joined by old friend **Ben Quesnel**, the illustrator of *Sarah Walked to School*, who also was exhibiting paintings and illustrations he's working on for his next book. (Ben will also be speaking at the next CAPA-U, coming up in May 2011). They got to chat, meet people, eat great food that was prepared by a local chef and relax with friends.



ABCs of the Editing Process: *Your Dictionary.com*

By Roberta Buland

While taking a break from my work of editing a book recently, I started surfing the web for writing-related sites. While I assumed there would be some, little did I realize that there would be too many to mention here. So I have decided to highlight one for you this month and continue to highlight others off and on in the months to come.

YourDictionary.com, subtitled “The last word in words,” claims to be the most authoritative and comprehensive language site on the Internet, with over 2,500 dictionaries and grammars in over 300 languages! The concept boggled my mind.

My first real job in publishing was writing definitions for the Thorndike-Barnhart dictionaries, the “last word” in school dictionaries at the time. It was at the beginning of the technological age, when new words were coming into English at a phenomenal rate.

It was especially interesting to read, “The last word in words,” since I knew from my own experience that the “last word” in anything hasn’t even been discovered yet! The English language alone has been and continues to explode with

new words even as I write now.

So, you might ask, “Who cares?” If you are a writer, you care! And if you want readers to read what you write, you *must* care! Verbal communication is what we do — and it is important to do it well.

Over the next few days or weeks, I suggest you peruse this site. If you have questions about the 14 punctuation marks in English, you’ll find your answers here. My first question to you is, “Can you list the 14 punctuation marks in English?”

Do you know the differences among its, it’s and its’? Hint: “it’s” is not a possessive; it is the contraction for “it is.”

Have you ever used the homonyms “there,” “their” or “they’re” incorrectly? Again, “they’re” is not a possessive, but rather the contraction for “they are.”

Can you think of other homonyms that might confuse you?

One of my pet peeves as an editor is the correct use of contractions. The word contract means to squeeze together, so a contraction is comprised of two words made into one word by placing an apostrophe where letters have been omitted. Some simple

examples are: can’t, we’ve, she’ll, won’t, he’s, they’d, shouldn’t. A question you might like to think about is what does “would’ve” stand for? Is it “would have” or “would of?”

Did you know that contractions are not necessary in written English and that using the full version of a word is always grammatically correct?

Or is it? The answer is, “Sometimes.”

When you write dialogue, it is important to write as the character would speak. Most people use contractions when speaking, so you should, too, when writing dialogue. But, in the narrative, stick to the full version — and then your narrative writing will always be correct.

Another pet peeve of mine is the use of dashes. Most people do not know that there are two kinds: the en dash and the em dash. The first is like a hyphen used between numbers such as twenty-two, or between parts of a compound word or name or between syllables of a word, especially when divided at the end of a line of text (although this isn’t done so much anymore).

The em dash is more complicated in its use. It consists of two hyphens joined together to form a longer dash. It indicates a break in thought or



sentence structure, or to introduce a phrase added for emphasis, definition or explanation, or to separate two clauses. For me, it is like a double comma or pause. For example, “Last week, we ate dinner out three times — and then we had brunch out, also.” The double dash or em dash is more emphatic than a comma and, therefore, indicates a longer pause.

Please remember the importance of correct usage in your writing. Your work will be better for it.

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 be reached at 860-308-2550 or via email at rjbuland@comast.net. Roberta welcomes questions about any aspect of editing, writing, and publishing.

Happy Holidays

