



# The Authority

Connecticut Authors & Publishers Association—Since 1994

Connecticut's Source for  
Writing, Publishing &  
Marketing Information

Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2011

## Karen Rider & Mark Hollis to Speak About "A Writer's Website: Planning Tips and Tools" May 16 at CAPA Central



The content you write for a website is not the same as content created for print media. If you create a website from this vantage point, the website will fail to do its

job: promote, market and sell your work.

Karen M. Rider, a freelance writer and author of nonfiction and fiction works, will present a set of key questions to ask yourself about goals for your website. You will understand how to translate the answers into the website you envision and assess what is best for you. Karen's current website will illustrate how she went through the site creation process — the woes she encountered before the

wonder of the final product manifested. Karen will provide resources that can help writers plan a website that is ready to rock 'n' roll: getting your writing found by the people who want to read it, buy it or represent it.



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## MEET A MEMBER: L. Jack Singer by Carol Healy



Our May featured member is an affable man of many names and talents. Friends and patients of Lawrence J. Singer, DDS, know him as Larry or Doc and, when it comes to writing, you will find him as L. Jack Singer. A practicing dentist and the president and CEO of Knowledge Tree,

Singer is from Wallingford, CT, where he and his wife, Judy have lived for 47 years.

Singer has four children, whose professions, lifestyles and experiences have provided ample fodder for his novels, biographies, memoirs, poems, and short stories.

Raised and educated in West Haven, CT, Singer showed an early inclination toward writing. He contributed to his Notre Dame High School newsletter and followed with social commentary in the St. Louis University News monthly publication.

He jokingly claims to dislike word-count limitations and the re-writing process and is a frequent contributor to a poetry page at an unnamed newspaper, where revision requests are a rarity.

From fishing boat to golf cart, an abundance of his musings spring from the surf and turf. He has independently published, *Moments of Candor as She Lay Dying* and currently has a book of his poems being edited. An article chronicling his experiences in Cabo San Lucas with a group of fellow dentists during the days prior to and following 9/11 is currently in the hands of a fishing magazine editor.

His experiences as Intelligence and Operations Officer in a MASH Battalion, in Germany, during the early '60s also fertilize his writings. Post-military life found Singer plunged into the debate between his profession and the

*continued on page 3*

### Meetings

Southwest Division  
Shelton  
5/9  
David Garnes

Main Meeting  
Avon  
5/21  
Karen Rider & Mark  
Hollis Speakers

Southeast Division  
Groton  
5/16  
To be announced

## Baking With Barb

by Barbara Klein

### Brown Rice, Tomato, Basil Salad

I've served this dish at a CAPA meeting before, but this time, the bowl of Brown Rice, Tomato and Basil Salad was as empty as my old hound dog's bowl after leftovers from a steak dinner. It was definitely time to publish the nutritious ingredients for all our health-science subscribers and for all those who have grown to love brown rice. I no longer buy white rice, but substitute brown in every recipe that calls for rice. When ordering out, I request brown rice even if it isn't on the menu — although many times it is.

#### Ingredients:

2¼ cups water  
1 cup brown rice  
2 tsp. sea salt (or to taste)  
2 Tbsp. white wine vinegar  
2 tsp. sugar  
2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 lb. vine-ripened tomatoes cut into ½-

inch pieces

1 cup packed fresh basil leaves, finely chopped

#### Directions:

Combine the water, rice and salt and bring to a boil. Stir once, cover, and reduce the temperature to a simmer. Allow it to cook for about 40 minutes. Remove the lid and carefully pour the tender brown grains into a large serving dish. Resist the urge to stir as this will release the starches and cause the rice to clump. Allow it to cool before fluffing with a fork and continuing the process. Chop your tomatoes and fresh basil. Don't you love the smell of fresh basil when its essential oils are released? If you grow your own herbs, they love a little petting. Just rub their leaves with your finger tips and see how they respond just like your puppy does when you pet him. Your grandchildren will love this too. Teaching



them to commune with nature is part of loving the world in which we live.

Mix the vinegar, sugar and olive oil in a jar and shake to form the dressing. Now pour the dressing and the bright red and green vegetables over the rice and gently toss to combine.

My friend and fellow writer, Shirley Webb, said she also adds cucumber and red onion. Go Shirley! I love trying new dishes, especially in the spring when vegetable quality goes up and the price goes down. Let me know what changes you made to your Brown Rice, Tomato, Basil Salad.

#### CAPA Board of Directors CAPA Officers & Board Members Contact Information

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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**

Editor—Peggy Gaffney, Meet A Member Column—Carol Healy  
Copy Editor—Rita Reali Staff Photographer—Deborah Kilday, Chris Blake—Staff Writer

**28TH OF THE MONTH**

**Meet A Member: L. Jack Singer** continued

health insurance industry. Representing the interests of both entities, Singer served as Senior Dental Consultant for CIGNA/CG, while also serving as officer and president of his State Dental Association, and as long time Delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates. He was also co-chairman of the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs of the ADA.

Singer is a frequent published contributor to the *ADA News*. In addition, he was co-founder and presi-

dent of the American Association of Dental Consultants and served for twenty years as editor of its journal, *The Beacon*.

Eager to perfect his craft, Singer will go just about anywhere that a lecture is being given on writing technique and format for Prose and Poetry. He is especially appreciative of the access to professionals like Kristan Higgins granted by his membership at CAPA.

Moments of Candor  
as She Lay Dying

**Here are a few specialty retailers who sell books, as well as other gifts** from John Kremer**Adventure Science Center Gift Shop**

800 Fort Negley Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203; 615-862-5160. Web: <http://www.adventuresci.com>. Science puzzles, games, kits, books and gifts.

**Frisco Native American Museum & Natural History Center Gift Shop**

P.O. Box 399, Frisco, NC 27936; 252-995-4440; Fax: 252-995-4030. Email: [admin@nativeamericanmuseum.org](mailto:admin@nativeamericanmuseum.org). Web: <http://www.nativeamericanmuseum.org>. Native American books, gifts and more.

**Frist Center Gift Shop, Frist Center for the Visual Arts**

919 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203-3822; 615-244-3340. Web: <http://www.fristcenter.org>. Art gifts, apparel, books, videos and more.

**The Museum Store, Country Music Hall of Fame**

222 Fifth Avenue S, Nashville, TN 37203; 615-416-2093. Web: <http://www.countrymusichalloffame.com>. Features country-music related books, apparel, CDs, gifts and souvenirs.

**North Carolina Maritime Museum Store**

Sharon Resor, Museum Store Manager, 315 Front Street, Beaufort, NC 28516-2125; 252-728-7317; Fax: 252-728-2108. Email: [sharon.resor@ncdcr.gov](mailto:sharon.resor@ncdcr.gov). Web: <http://www.ncmaritimemuseum.org>. Features maritime and natural history books, gifts, clothing and souvenirs.

**SciShop, SciWorks**

400 W Hanes Mill Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105; 336-767-6730. Web: <http://www.sciworks.org>. Features science-related gifts, books, kits, videos and more.

Here are some more specialty retailers who sell books:

**Beads & Gifts**

309 Central Avenue, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520; 228-216-9701. Beading supplies, books, gifts.

**Bridges Pro Shop, The Bridges Golf Club**

Hollywood Casino Bay St. Louis, 711 Hollywood Blvd., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520; 228-463-4047; Fax: 228-466-8077.

Email: [bslgolf@pngaming.com](mailto:bslgolf@pngaming.com). Web: <http://www.hollywoodcasinobs.com/golf/proshop.cfm>. Features golf equipment, apparel, books and gifts.

**Children's Museum of the Shoals Gift Shop**

2810 Darby Drive, Florence, AL 35630; 256-765-0500. Email: [CMOS@shoalschildrensmuseum.org](mailto:CMOS@shoalschildrensmuseum.org). Web: <http://www.shoalschildrensmuseum.org>. Features children's books, apparel, toys, etc.

**Cowgirls of the West Museum Gift Shop**

205 West 7th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001; 307-638-4994. Web: <http://www.wyomingcowgirlsofthewest.com> (not active yet). Gifts, apparel, souvenirs, plus books on history, west lore, women's rights, etc.

**The Discovery Shop, American Museum of Science and Energy**

300 S Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; 865-576-3201. Email: [store@amse.org](mailto:store@amse.org). Web: <http://www.amse.org>. Features science and children's books, science kits, toys, videos, apparel and more.

**Great Discoveries Museum Store, Discovery Center**

502 SE Broad Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130; 615-890-2300; Fax: 615-849-9573. Email: [info@discoverycenteronline.org](mailto:info@discoverycenteronline.org). Web: <http://www.discoverycenteronline.org>. This children's science museum store features science kits, books, apparel, art kits and more.

**Sun Studio Rock Shop**

Mike Schorr, Merchandise Picker, 706 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103; 800-441-6249. Email: [mos@sunstudio.com](mailto:mos@sunstudio.com). Web: <http://www.sunstudio.com>. Features rock 'n roll histories, autobiographies, and memoirs. Also music apparel, recordings and souvenirs.

**Woven Heart Scrapbook**

2517 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601; 337-480-9801; Fax: 337-494-1197. Email: [jean@wovenheartscrapbook.com](mailto:jean@wovenheartscrapbook.com). Web: <http://www.wovenheartscrapbook.com>. Scrapbook supplies, books and classes.

Find more listings at <http://www.bookmarket.com>.

Reprinted from "Rick Frishman's Sunday Tips." Subscribe at <http://www.rickfrishman.com> and receive Rick's "Million Dollar Rolodex"

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

Accents Publishing 2011 International Poetry Book Contest seeks entries for prizes, publication and an invitation to a book premiere. All entries are considered. The deadline is July 31.

Echook Digital publishes literary applications for Androids, iPads and iPhones, and pays up to \$100 for 750 to 2,000 words. Whatever the topic, they have an app for it!

Green Fuse Poetic Arts

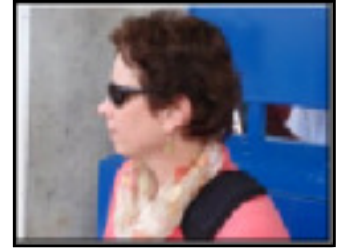
Association's anthology seeks grassroots poets and Place Press seeks original essays, poetry and fiction for an interdisciplinary publication on the theme of weather. The deadline is August 31.

Main Street Rag seeks novellas of 25,000 to 50,000 words and short fiction of up to 10,000 words for themed anthologies. Submission by e-mail only, from May 1 to September 1.

Switchgrass Books, the

fiction imprint of Northern Illinois University Press, seeks submissions of full-length literary novels set in or about the Midwest by authors with Midwestern ties. For guidelines, visit [Submissions](#).

Walt Whitman Birthplace Association seeks food poems with recipes for a poetry-cookbook anthology. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three poems, copy of the anthology for those selected for publication. Deadline is June 30.



To share a trusted site, email [a.annesi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.annesi@sbcglobal.net).

**Word for Words, LLC**  
CAPA Authors  
P.203.894.1908

*Press Pause* Essays by Women Writers  
*Art of Editing Workshop* and *Word for Words* blog

## Author and Editor Cite Importance of Communication and Trust By Chris Blake

Clear and open communication and trust between an author and an editor are crucial to success in producing a publishable manuscript, the author of a recent book on effective business hiring and his editor explained at CAPA's April 16 meeting in Avon.

"You literally have to drop your pride. You have to trust your editor," said Garrett Miller, author of the book, *Hiring on a WHIM*.

His editor, Adele Annesi, discussed her role in the process.

"As an editor, you're like a diamond cutter. You're chipping away at what's already a gem," she said. "When you chip away, you get at the content that's there and how best to showcase it."



Miller was a salesman and a sales manager at Pfizer for 18 years before starting his own consulting business. He decided to write a book to share his insights into the hiring process for two reasons: to build his consulting business and to provide a "wedge" to promote his corporate training courses.

"Brad has a lot of experience. He knows his subject well, he's good with people and he's passionate about his subject," Annesi said. "As you are thinking about your next book, whether nonfiction or fiction, choose a subject you are passionate about and one where you have some subject matter expertise."

When Miller finished his first draft, he circulated it to 25 to 30 business associates. He asked them to read the book and then agree to an interview with him about it. Miller asked his initial readers a series of questions, including what the book identified as the four things you

look for when hiring and suggestions to improve the book.

"I had four pages of interview notes with positive feedback and suggestions. This gave me affirmation that what I had to say was valuable. Once I had the feedback, I needed to polish the book," he said. He gave the manuscript to Annesi to edit.

"What surprised me when I got it back were all the things she wanted me to omit," he said. "I thought, 'These are my ideas. This is good stuff. She's crazy.' I let it sit and when I came back to it, I began to realize that most of Adele's changes made the important content more valuable. She saw that some of the content was getting lost in what I thought were some great scenarios."

This story drives home a key point both Miller and Annesi stressed: It's vital for



an author to let some time pass before making any decisions on proposed editing changes.

Annesi said open and honest communication between the author and editor is also

important to success.

"If you get feedback and you look at it and you still don't understand why the editor is asking you to make a change, ask the editor," she said. "Most of the time, when a problem arises, it's because the way it was being communicated was not understood."

Miller also shared his experiences in self-publishing through Dog Ear, an independent publisher. He stressed the importance of making sure the manuscript has been thoroughly edited by several people before submitting it to a printer.

## Eileen Albrizio To Teach Two-part Workshop



Maybe you've always yearned to write a book, but you aren't certain you can tell a compelling story. Or perhaps you're looking to polish your current writing skills but just don't know where to start. Join award-winning writer and former NPR broadcast journalist Eileen Albrizio this month for a two-part workshop at Millrace Books in Farmington.

### Saturday, May 21 — Writing What You Know (Or Don't Know).

It's a simple philosophy... perhaps too simple: Write what you know. We are creative people and writing about only what we've experienced seems limiting. What does it actually mean, anyway? How can you write a science-fiction, horror or fantasy novel if what you write must be based on only what you've experience in real life? Then again, how do you write what you don't know? Does that mean spending time and energy doing large amounts of research?

The answer is simpler than you think. Writing what you know is actually a good philosophy, but it's not the entire philosophy. It's just the start. In this workshop we will explore what it means to write what you know, then go outside the realm

of our own experiences and write what we don't know.

### Saturday, May 28 — How to Write Effective Dialogue

When writing dialogue, how natural should it be to everyday speech, and how do you know when your characters talk too much? What, if any, is the proper format for writing dialogue and does punctuation matter? Are writing dialects and capturing vernacular important. What is the purpose of dialogue and is it more or less important than description and action?

In this workshop, we will go into the intricate details of the rights and wrongs of writing dialogue, from formatting to content and beyond.

Only \$75 for BOTH sessions, May 21 and 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Farmington River Arts Center at Millrace Books, 40 Mill Lane, Farmington, CT. Phone 860-677-9662 for more information or email EileenRain@aol.com.



## Why You Still Don't Have an Agent

by Jeff Rivera

### "Self-Sabotage"

If there's one thing that bothers me, it's when you see a very talented writer ruin their chances of ever getting an agent. And it's not because they're not talented enough, not nice enough or hard-working enough. It's often because, on some level, they're self-sabotaging their success.

I ghost write query letters for clients and I recently had an Asian-based client who did exactly that. He had a wonderful storyline and I encouraged him, before we sent the query letter out, to get his manuscript as ready as possible. If that meant having it professionally edited, so be it. I even had the name of editors who formerly worked at major publishing houses who could do so for him here: <http://tinyurl.com/2uqu2mj>.

His response? He wanted to leave the manuscript as he put it, "raw so that literary agents can see my full

potential." Um, no.

No matter how much I gently encouraged him that maybe that wasn't the best route, he didn't want to listen. I told him you only have one shot at these agents and you want to make a good first impression; yet he insisted he was right.

Here I am, dealing with literally hundreds of literary agencies a year. They tell me exactly what they're looking for, why they accept and reject clients — and yet he insisted that he must know better.

It's just sad to me. His manuscript had tremendous potential but it needed more than a Band-Aid; it needed double-bypass surgery.

My point is, when you're talking to people who do this for a living, who engage with other publishing professionals day in and day out, listen to them. They know what they're talking about. Do that,

and you'll be one step closer to landing an agent.

If you would like to see an example of query letters that worked, visit: <http://www.HowtoWriteaQueryLetter.com>  
Reprinted from "Rick Frishman's Sunday Tips."

Subscribe at <http://www.rickfrishman.com> and receive Rick's "Million Dollar Rolodex."



## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

### CAPA-SE MEETINGS: Monday 7:00 pm

- May 16: TBA, Groton Public Library 7 pm  
**Summer Meetings: Location TBA**  
 Jun 20: Jan Kardys, Agent,  
 Jul 18: Brian Judd, CAPA founder, author, publisher and Marketer.  
 Aug 15: TBA  
 Sep 19: TBA, Groton Public Library

### CAPA CENTRAL MEETINGS: Saturday 10:30 am

- May 21. Karen Rider & Mark Hollis speak on Website Creation  
 June 18. Roberta Buland speaks on Editing  
 July 16 The annual CAPA summer picnic  
 August 20 Eileen Albrizio speaks on Fiction Writing  
 September 17 Peggy Gaffney speaks on Using Facebook to Market Your Books  
 October 15 TBA  
 November 19 Brian Jud speaks on Beyond the Bookstore, Selling Your Books In Large Numbers.  
 December 17 Annual CAPA Christmas Party

### CAPA SOUTHWEST MEETINGS: Monday 6:30 pm

- May 9 Plumb Library, Shelton, 6:30 pm TBA

## Brag Board



**Kirk Sinclair, Ph.D., a.k.a. The Hiking Humanitarian** reports that “This is not your usual brag. It’s not about something that happened but something that will happen. It’s not about writing, but something that will help out my writing and music.

“On May 25 my wife Cindy and I will start hiking over 5,000 miles across the country along the American Discovery Trail, leaving from Point Reyes in California and arriving at our home in Norfolk, CT on May 24, 2012. During this year-long journey, we will be raising funds and awareness for humanitarian causes.

“In response to my mantra of “Housing, Health and Hunger,” people may donate to Habitat for Humanity, Doctors without Borders or Church World Services from my website, in the spirit of pledging for the king of all walk-a-thons. This is not the exciting part. Along the way, we will collaborate with a few of the 45,000 Lions Clubs all over the world to increase involvement with local humanitarian causes. I will facilitate community potlucks, interview community stalwarts and/or give a presentation called “Believe in Humanity” along the way.

“The presentation is based on my next book that will come out after the journey, ***The Five Forgotten Truths: Humanity’s Natural Path for Well-Being***. This journey is, in fact, a career move to build a platform for the humanitarian themes I write and sing about. CAPA members can assist me with this by visiting The Hiking Humanitarian web site, getting The Hiking Humanitarian newsletter and passing the word along to your friends. May the Big E treat you well this year; I’ll be somewhere in Colorado then.”

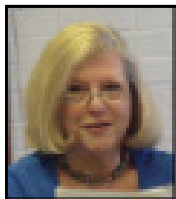


Publisher **Robert Trexler** released four new books within the past six weeks. Three are with **Winged Lion Press** and the forth is with a new imprint, **Barnabas Books**, which is under the Winged Lion umbrella.

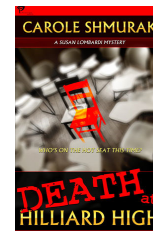
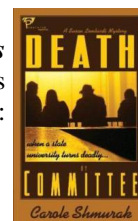
The titles are: *Speaking of Jack: A C.S. Lewis Discussion Guide* by Will Vaus; *The Eye of the Beholder: How to Think Like a Romantic Poet* by Louis Markos; *Remembering Roy Campbell: The Memoirs of His Daughters Anna and Tess*, edited by Judith Coullie; and *Called to Serve: Life as a Firefighter-Deacon* by Anthony Surozenski.



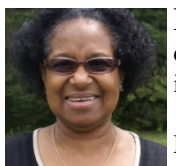
## Brag Board



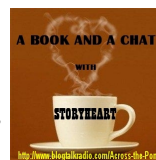
**Carole Shmurak** tells us her *The Susan Lombardi Mysteries: Deadmistress* (2004) was named a Notable Book by Writers Notes Magazine; her other books include *Death by Committee* (2006) and *Death at Hilliard High* (2009). Website: <http://www.mattytrescott.com/Carole.htm>  
Blogs: <http://deadmistress.wordpress.com> and <http://deathbycommittee.wordpress.com/>.



**David Garnes** notes the nice and concise review his new book *From My Life: Travels And Adventures* received in the May issue of *Hartford Magazine* "Manchester resident and travel enthusiast David Garnes shares three decades of travel tales written with a wry sense of humor and sense of adventure. His stories make up an enjoyable armchair travel book, taking the reader from locales here in New England to the far reaches of the globe. Garnes' personal and poignant points of view come from journals he kept on his travels and successfully convey a sense of time and place with each vignette."



**Fay Taylor** brags that on May 5th at 6:30 pm EST she will be on **A Book and a Chat**. She'll be discussing her book *Steel*. Fay Lindo Taylor was born in Kingston, the capital city of the idyllic island paradise of Jamaica, West Indies. Educated at Waulgrove College, immigrated to the USA in 1970 in order to pursue upward mobility and broaden personal horizons. After residing in Potomac, Maryland for a year and a half, she relocated to Hartford Connecticut, where she met and married her devoted husband, Charles A. Taylor. This special union produced and nurtured three amazing children, Charles Jr., Sean and Monique.



**Frances Gilbert** was featured in an article in the **Home Supplement to the Trumbull Times**, April 14th issue, "An Author at Home." The article showed the author at home, and featured Gilbert's latest product, a CD 'Stories for Listening,' a wonderfully narrated set of stories for children. Gilbert's narrator is a marvelous 84 year old grandfather whose voice is immediately compelling to young listeners.



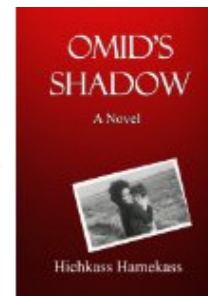
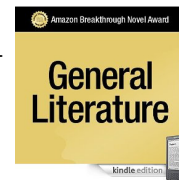
**Jason Alster** was a guest on the West Hartford local TV show 'Positively West Hartford' with Silvia Brill to talk about his book about life in Israel. Jason also gave a talk to CAPA SE at the Groton Library on making book-trailers videos. It was well attended. Jason will give a workshop on writer's and artist's block at CAPA-U, May 7.



Author and Illustrator **Matthew Goldman a.k.a. Constant Waterman** reports: My second children's book is at the printer and should be ready May 1st. I've also had three of my pen-and-ink illustrations accepted by juried shows for the month of May: Hygienic Arts, 79 Bank St, New London; City Hall, 181 State St., New London and Mystic Art Center, 9 Water St., Mystic.



News from **Jan Coffey** & the rest of us. Jan Coffey is conducting the popular **young writers workshops** for second year in the row at Litchfield Education Connection for two weeks in July. For more information please visit [www.JanCoffey.com-Stepwriteup.com](http://www.JanCoffey.com-Stepwriteup.com). Also, Nikoo Kafi is a semi-finalist at 2011 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award (top 50). for her novel *Omid's Shadow*. The excerpt of the novel can be downloaded from: [http://www.amazon.com/Omids-Shadow-excerpt-Breakthrough-ebook/dp/B004TEYTGE/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&s=books&qid=1303910855&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Omids-Shadow-excerpt-Breakthrough-ebook/dp/B004TEYTGE/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&s=books&qid=1303910855&sr=8-1). She appreciates any reviews.



## The ABCs of the Editing Process

By Roberta Buland

Although the invitation to William and Kate's royal wedding never arrived in my mailbox, I witnessed the wedding along with billions of others on TV. And, it was indeed something to behold! What I realized as I was watching it was that everyone who heard the spoken words of the clergy or the vows of the couple heard English spoken at the highest level possible! And, isn't that saying a lot about our language! While it isn't the first language of most of the world, although some might dispute me about this, it is a language understood all over the world! So, this leads me to believe we had better "get it right" when we use it because we are setting an example for the world.

This all got me to thinking about the creative process and where to look for inspiration. At times, authors experience writer's block, and the creative juices stop flowing, at least momentarily. Has this happened to you? Advice about overcoming it comes from many sources: Stop writing and go for a walk, or take a nap and dream up ideas, or

daydream ideas, or stare at the blank page long enough and eventually, you'll start writing. The advice is endless!

I think one of the best sources for inspiration is the best-selling book of all time: the Bible. No matter what the subject, whether it is war and peace; ecology or a myriad of other sciences; sacrifice; dysfunctional families; law; math; beginnings and endings; geography; history; harlotry; customs and practices; homosexuality; plants and animals; cosmetology; women's, men's or children's rights, etc., the Bible has something to say about all of them. And, that's only the list for nonfiction!

To some, the Bible may seem like fiction. How could the Red Sea actually have parted, for example? How could someone as weak as David slay the might Goliath? How could a woman like Deborah lead a nation to victory? How could a mere mortal like Moses actually have talked to God? Even stories of his birth and life read like a fiction narrative!

Although I have exemplified the Old Testament above, stories and sources abound in

the New Testament, the Koran, other religions and folklore, to name a few, that you can look at to help the writing juices flow. Try it!

Once you focus on a particular story, idea, process, etc., write like you have a deadline. Do not stop to change or edit punctuation, initialisms, grammar, British or American spelling, development, paragraph and sentence structure or any other part of the process that will slow you down! Just write, write and write! However, once the draft is written, vow to not show it to another soul! You probably won't want to anyway. Instead, rewrite it so it is focused, organized and coherent. Rewrite it to be certain it says what you want it to say. Perhaps it will take more than one rewrite. That's okay. After all, you do want to get it right. The English-speaking world is depending on you! Once you have a draft that you are proud of, then, if you wish, share it with your closest writer friends, your mother, father or spouse, or even your writing teacher. And be open to their responses — which will help to make you a better writer! And, you'll have a better draft



to show to your editor.

Comments? Contact me at [rjbuland@comcast.net](mailto: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 be reached at 860-308-2550. She welcomes questions about any aspect of editing, writing and publishing.

NOTE: Come see and hear Roberta present the interactive program, EDITING FOR PUBLICATION: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, at the CT Romance Writers of America meeting in North Haven on Saturday, June 11th or at CAPA-Avon on June 18th. Contact her for further details at [rjbuland@comcast.net](mailto:rjbuland@comcast.net).

## Brag Board

*continued*

**Peggy Gaffney** took her books on the road last month when she traveled to Harrisburg, PA to speak at the Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association Jubilee. Peggy wrote her newest knitting book, *The Crafty Llama and Alpaca Knits* in part to help North American alpaca farmers market the yarn they produce from the fleece of their animals.



While there, Peggy also taught knitting and autographed her books while surrounded by more than 1,000 alpaca that had traveled from all parts of the country to compete at the show. At far right, she is welcomed with a smooch from a very friendly Suri alpaca named Spike.

