

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE



NOVEMBER 2010

NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS

Our November workshops will be on November 13th and November 27th from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Format rules are: Minimum, 12-pt. Times New Roman font and double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. 4 pages maximum.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

(Please share your writing adventures in the December newsletter.)

NUTS & BOLTS:

THREE FOREIGN EXPRESSIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Below are three foreign expressions commonly used in English. More next month.

1. De Facto

De facto is a Latin expression that means “actual” (if used as an adjective) or “in practice” (if used as an adverb).

Example: And what of the plastic red bench, which has served as his de facto home for the last 15 years and must by now be a collector’s item? (NY Times)

2. Per se

Per se is a Latin expression that means “by itself” or “intrinsically.”

Example: The mistake it made with the Xbox is that there is no game console market per se; there are PlayStation, GameCube, and Xbox markets. (PCMag.com)

3. Ad hoc

Ad hoc, borrowed from the Latin, can be used both as an adjective, where it means “formed or created with a specific purpose,” and as an adverb, where it means “for the specific purpose or situation.”

Example: The World Bank’s board on Friday ordered an ad hoc group to discuss the fate of President Paul Wolfowitz (CNN)

From the Daily Writing Tips website: <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/>

PLACES TO SEND YOUR WORK

Every month I'm showcasing a few places to submit your work. Here are this month's places:

io9's Environmental Writing Contest

io9 is going to pay \$2000 each to two people who write the best stories about environmental disaster. It's io9's Environmental Writing Contest - for science fiction and non-fiction.

Deadline: December 11

For more information refer to

www.io9.com

Boulevard Magazine

Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers \$1,500 and publication in Boulevard awarded to the winning story by a writer who has not yet published a book of fiction, poetry, or creative non-fiction with a nationally distributed press.

Deadline: December 31

For more information refer to

<http://www.boulevardmagazine.org/partners.html>

River Oak Review

A review of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Features compelling, accessible work by both established and emerging writers.

Deadline: February 1

For more information refer to

<http://www.riveroakreview.org/frames.html>

Read submission guidelines carefully.

More places next month. Got a place you want to share? Let me know.

NEW WORD OF THE MONTH

Sisyphean

adjective

: of, relating to, or suggestive of the labors of Sisyphus; specifically : requiring continual and often ineffective effort

“Considering the inherently fickle nature of golf, defending a title is, no doubt, as Sisyphean a task as any in the sport.” (Anthony Cuaycong, BusinessWorld, July 2008)

- from Merriam Webster Online

THE ROLAND QUEST LECTURE AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

by Mary Ann Lufkin

On October 14th, New York Times best-selling author, Elizabeth Berg, presented “The Stories Behind the Stories” lecture. Ms Berg has written twenty-two novels. *Open House* was chosen as the August 2000 Oprah Book Club selection, which resulted in sales of 500,000 instead of her usual 25,000 copies. She lives in Oak Park, Illinois.

Elizabeth worked as a registered nurse for ten years. She always wrote. She wanted to work from home when her children were born, so she went to the library, researched the names of editors and started submitting. She wrote non-fiction articles for ten years before she attempted fiction. She was approached by Parents’ magazine with an idea for a book. After that non-fiction book was published, she realized she wanted to write from her own ideas and started writing novels. She was encouraged by her teachers and knew she had a lot to say.



Ms Berg’s program was:

- What you need to have to be a writer
- Three steps to publishing
- The stories behind the stories

WHAT YOU NEED TO HAVE TO BE A WRITER

Ms. Berg believes the prerequisites for being a writer are:

- Being a loner
- Having a sense of drama
- Feeling things deeply
- Acting on a page (dialogue)
- Needing to share
- Possessing a thwarted desire and a continual frustration (to get your thoughts on pages)

THREE STEPS TO PUBLISHING

1. Have something to say.
2. Say it well. You must possess a command of the English language before you can write in colloquy. You must have an engaging style of writing.
3. Send it out (risk being hurt by being run over by a Mack truck); get an agent; magazines are a great start.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORIES

The speaker recited a synopsis of the stories behind the stories of all of her twenty-two novels. Alas I cannot write that fast and I couldn't keep up with her, so I'll just present a smattering of her early novels.

She wrote *Durable Goods* for herself, which is fiction yet autobiographical. Writing that book opened a door between herself and her father. She was afraid it would hurt his feelings. She has written a sequel to this book and her fans are clamoring for a third in the series.

Oprah's people called Elizabeth announcing a show on breast cancer and wanted Elizabeth to participate. Elizabeth's novel, *Talk Before Sleep*, is about her friend's battle with breast cancer and was her first New York Times bestseller.

When she researched a historical fiction novel on World War II, she perused magazines from that era. Her novel is titled *Dream Even When You're Blue*. She was inspired by the character of that generation, which includes her parents.

EPILOGUE

Before taking questions from the audience, Elizabeth commented on her personal writing process. She treats her characters with dignity and discovers their inner strengths. She said her process of creativity is mysterious. She does not force herself to write. She writes from the heart, not the brain. She wants to be surprised (she does not plot/outline her novels.)

Elizabeth starts writing early in the morning, when "she is close to the sleep state." Writing is joyful for her. If she is inspired by a real person, that character will change by the time the novel is completed. Her mantra from nursing that she infuses into her prose is "Acknowledge the sorrow but celebrate the joy."

Elizabeth packed the auditorium (mostly women.) She was an animated and inspiring speaker.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Last Sunday” Poetry Reading

Poets will be featured at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy (across the street from the Train Station), in Westmont from noon until 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 28. The cover charge of \$5.00 includes refreshments, and for those who wish to participate, a poetry open mic.

This event is sponsored by the Illinois State Poetry Society, the Westmont Area Friends of the Arts, and Brewed Awakening Café.

Writer’s Group – Wednesday Mornings College of DuPage

Write various kinds of popular fiction, including spy, mystery, romance, suspense, science fiction, horror and action-adventure. Benefit from a writers’ workshop and learn how to publish your fiction. Begins Jan 12. Information:

Mardelle Fortier, (630) 942-2800, ext. 51006.

Writer’s Group – Thursday Evenings College of DuPage

Meet like-minded writers working in a variety of genres, including short story, novel, poetry, flash fiction, screenplay and creative non-fiction. Get friendly support, critique and encouragement, regular assignments and deadlines that help get the work done.

New students should enroll in English 1800.

Returning Writers’ Group students should select English 2800. Classes: Jan. 13 to

April 14 (6:30 to 9:50 p.m.) Information:

Kristine Miller, (630) 942-2356.

Imagining Nature

Morton Arboretum

Start 2011 off with a literary bang! Poetry and lyrical prose give both writer and reader a distinct perspective on their natural surroundings. In this course, we discuss the methods used by classical and contemporary writers whose subject is nature. Participants will create at least one work of their own and will submit it for class discussion.

5 Saturdays, Jan 8 – Feb 5;

9:30 am – Noon. \$138 (non-members \$169).

EDITOR’S CORNER

Send your writing and ideas to:
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www.creativeoptions.com/BWW/index.htm