



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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December 9, Nancy Carlson, Children's Author/Illustrator "The World of Picture Books"



Nancy Carlson has written and illustrated more than 64 children's books since 1979. She first decided to become an illustrator as a young child growing up in Edina, MN. She drew for hours, telling stories through her drawings. Graduating from the Minneapolis College of Art, Nancy worked as an illustrator. While there, her editor suggested she try writing her own stories. Her first book, *Harriet's Recital*, launched an entire neighborhood of delightful characters to help young readers deal with everyday situations and learn basic values, such as honesty, self-confidence, and determination. Nancy's specialty is teaching kids to feel good about themselves and others. Publishers Weekly wrote of her book, *I Like Me!*, "The foundation of a

healthy self-image, the cornerstone of a happy and successful life, is what Carlson's work is all about."

Nancy finds inspiration from her family, friends, pets, and past experiences. She loves nature and outdoor recreation.

Over the years, in addition to books, she has written stage plays and designed specialty items, such as posters, t-shirts, caps, and greeting cards.

On Monday, December 9th, Nancy Carlson will share with the Guild her journey in writing picture books. Along the way she will cover where ideas come from, the picture book structure, and her experiences, both good and bad, in the book business.

Her most recent book is titled *This Morning Sam Went to Mars*, published by Free Spirit. For more information on Nancy's books visit www.nancycarlson.com.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

January 13, Chris Atkins, musician and songwriter
Creating Lyrics: Productive Tips

February 10, Amy Lyon, journalist and author
Crafting a Lead and Structuring Articles

March 10, Charlene Patterson, Bethany House editor
Christian Fiction Trends

April 12, Spring Seminar, David Sheets, marketing
All About eBooks

April 14, MCWG Member Panel hosted by Joyce K. Ellis
Practical Insights for Today's Christian Writer

May 12, MCWG 60th Anniversary Celebration
Jonathan Friesen: *Writing for the Generations*

2013-14 Theme Verse

Merry Christmas from your MCWG Board

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

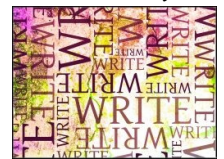
2 Corinthians 3:2-3 ESV

God's Word, A Gift for the World

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...to save the world through him. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

(John 1:1-2; 3:16-17; 1:14; Revelation 21:5)



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Literary Holiday Treat

What is Christmas without gingerbread? For your literary pleasure, you might try this recipe by American poet, Emily Dickinson, born on December 10, 1830. She lived until May 15, 1886. Known as one of the greatest poets in American history, within her community Dickinson was acknowledged and appreciated as an accomplished cook. Here is her recipe as transcribed from her original manuscript in *Emily Dickinson: Profile of the Poet as Cook* *:

1 quart flour	1 teaspoon soda
1/2 cup butter	1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup cream	Make up with
1 tablespoon ginger	molasses

The editors of the book add the following about Emily Dickinson's gingerbread recipe:

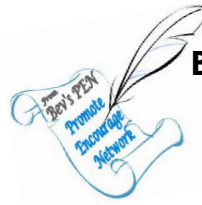
"Cream the butter and mix with lightly whipped cream. Sift dry ingredients together and combine with other ingredients. The dough is stiff and needs to be pressed into whatever pan you choose. A round or small square pan is suitable. The recipe also fits perfectly into a cast iron muffin pan, if you happen to have one which makes oval cakes. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 20-25 minutes."



"Guides at the Emily Dickinson House, who in 1975 individually experimented with the quantity of molasses, have generally agreed that a 'cup or so' is just about right." (p.15)

Enjoy! Post your results on our Facebook page.

* Brose, Nancy, Juliana McGovern Dupre, Wendy Tocher Kohler and Jean McClure Mudge, *Emily Dickinson: Profile of the Poet as Cook* (Amherst, Massachusetts, ©1976).
http://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/ed/files/education/Emily_Dickinsons_Gingerbread.pdf



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Gift of Words

Christmas is a time to honor Jesus, God's true Word of hope and salvation to the world. It's also a perfect time to encourage reading and writing among family and friends.

Take time from busy schedules to read God's Word aloud, to listen to the wisdom, the themes, and the story. Allow the truth and message to enlarge your vision and writing mission.



Read with children.

Take turns exploring the world of words and ideas. Play word games. Make up stories together. Choose special books as gifts.

Resist the lure of the frantic, time-wasting culture and consider the simple,

basic message of God's Word. Simple gifts can be profound.



Include writing tools as present ideas. Pencils, pens, notebooks, journals, stationery, markers, paints. Writing craft books.

Know someone toying with writing? Or in need of a gentle push into publication? Gift them with a carpool invitation to Guild meetings for the season.

In every way, communicate God's eternal hope.

*Your word, O LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues
through all generations....* (Psalm 19:89-90)

2013-2014 Officers

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Meeting Schedule

Meetings are the second Monday of each month, September through May, 6:30-9 p.m. in the lower level Youth Room at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 720 13th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The meeting room is handicap accessible.



Parking for Guild Meetings

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located in downtown Minneapolis, between South 7th and 8th Streets. Free parking for Guild members/visitors is accessed off South 8th St. When full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost. Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot. Come early. Share a ride.