

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship



Volume 27 Number 2

October 2014

October 13, Michelle Griep, Erica Vetsch, Jill Elizabeth Nelson

Write in the Middle of Plotters & Pantsers

What is your method for writing? Do you write by the “seat of your pants”? Do you meticulously outline every element of your book’s plot? How do you keep track of all the details in your storyline? What method (or methods) have published authors discovered? Are they plotters or pantsers?



Michelle Griep has been writing since she first discovered blank wall space and crayons. And, except for a teenaged graffiti phase, she seeks to glorify God in all she writes. Michelle will discuss various methods of writing. “Believe me,” she said. “I’ve tried them all.” Michelle teaches

“Call me a ‘plantser,’” said award-winning author and writing teacher, Jill Elizabeth Nelson. She’s right in the middle of the road as far as plotting and pantsing. “Too much detailed plotting tends to kill my creativity, but I need fairly strong guideposts along the route to keep me steady and on task. Generally, I even know how the story comes out—just not exactly how. That’s the pants part.” Jill writes tales of adventure seasoned with romance, humor, and faith.

history and writing classes for a local high school co-op. She writes Regency and time-travel novels.

Erica Vetsch will present the Plot Board method and give away a Plot Board gift package to one person at the meeting. Erica combines her love of history and romance by writing historical romances.

Bring your questions for these multipublished authors.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

November 10, 2014 — Joyce K. Ellis, author/editor

How to Study Magazines to Increase Your Publication Potential

(also: Member Celebration/Authors’ Table Night)

December 8, 2014 — David Horton, Bethany House editor

Writing an Effective Book Proposal

January 12, 2015 — Susie Larson, author/radio host

Tending the Soil of a Writer’s Soul

February 9, 2015 — Lotis Key, author/dramatist

Writing for Christian Theater

March 9, 2015 — Phyllis Alsdurf, Bethel University journalism professor

Ten Fool-Proof Ways to “Shrink-Wrap” Your Writing

April 11, 2015 — Spring Seminar — Ginger Kolbaba

Building Your Writing Skills

April 13, 2015 — Ginger Kolbaba, editor

Writing Other People’s Stories

May 11, 2015 — Sam Crabtree, author/pastor

Write Well, for the Love of God

2014-15 Theme Verse: Romans 15:4-6

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..

Member Celebration with Authors’ Tables

Monday, November 10, we celebrate MCWG members! Authors may bring books to sell. Complete the table display application, which can be found on our website, and send in by October 24.

Are you an editor, illustrator, publisher, or teacher? If you work in the field of writing and want to display your skills, this is the night. Complete the form and send it in.



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

“Like” us on Facebook: [MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild)

Appreciation for Afternoon Pitch Sessions

We want to extend our thanks to *Guideposts* executive editor Rick Hamlin for providing our members the opportunity to pitch story ideas for the *Guideposts* magazines.



We also appreciate the owner and staff at Segue Café for allowing us to monopolize part of their coffee shop for the afternoon. Only blocks from

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Segue Café is a convenient location to grab some coffee or a snack before Guild meetings. They are located at 609 South 10th Street in Minneapolis, between Portland and Park Avenues.



Save the Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Spring Seminar:

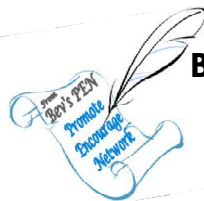
Building Your Writing Skills

Speaker: Ginger Kolbaba

Ginger Kolbaba is an accomplished, award-winning author, editor, and speaker. She has published more than 400 magazine and online articles, written or contributed to more than 20 books, and is the former editor of *Today's Christian Woman*, *Marriage Partnership*, and *Kyria.com*, all media ministry resources from *Christianity Today*.



Details about specific seminar content, location, cost and registration will be available in January.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Writers as Students

Our theme verse, Romans 15:4-6, can be separated into nine areas of encouragement. In September we looked at the first phrase and recalled the history of our guild and our need of God's history as our foundation in writing.

Continuing in the first verse, we know that "everything ... was written to teach." God calls believers in Christ to be open to learning the truths He wants to teach us through Scripture and life events. When writers are teachable, we can more effectively help our readers.

In order to produce our best possible work, our writing process requires much collaboration, drawing from many sources to edit, revise, and restructure content. Agents and editors know that making changes to personal writing is not fun or easy. They look for an author who can listen with humility and graciously accept critique and guidance. Editors and agents love to see an author's desire to learn and grow in the craft.

Participating in a critique group can assist in the process. The best groups offer honest suggestions for improvement rather than simply a pat on the back. Talk to published authors and professional editors. Ask questions and then listen. Take writing classes. Attend seminars. Employ the services of professional editors.

Don't assume you know it all...or even most of it.

We're in this together. We need each other to better learn the craft of writing, the nuances of editing, and all the fine-tuning that God has for us.

Keep learning.

**Your Word,
O LORD, is eternal.
It stands firm
in the
heavens.**

Psalm 119:89

**ALL
OTHERS
ARE
SUBJECT
TO EDITING.**



2014-2015 Officers

President

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Vice President

Lotis Key themessengersfeet@comcast.net

Membership Director

Jason Sisam jason.mcwg@gmail.com

Interim Publications Director

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Seminar Director

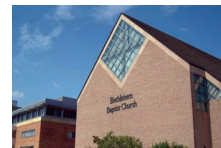
Joyce Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com

Treasurer

Marianne McDonough
mariannemcdonough7@yahoo.com

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 the lot is full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost.

Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot.

Come early. Share a ride.