

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

Volume 27 Number 7

March 2015

March 9, Phyllis Alsdurf

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



Editing helps shape written ideas into material worth publishing. Learn to tighten your prose and strengthen your editing skills on Monday, March 9, when Phyllis Alsdurf shares ten important guidelines for clearer, more concise writing.

Bring writing samples to work on as part of this workshop.

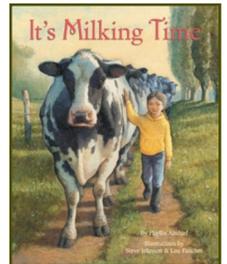
A former magazine editor,

Phyllis Alsdurf has taught journalism and creative writing classes at Bethel University for the past 15 years. She served as editor of *Family Life Today* magazine for 6 years and was director of publications at Bethel for 5 years prior to joining the English department faculty.

She holds a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Minnesota and is director of the Johnson Center for Journalism and Communication at Bethel.

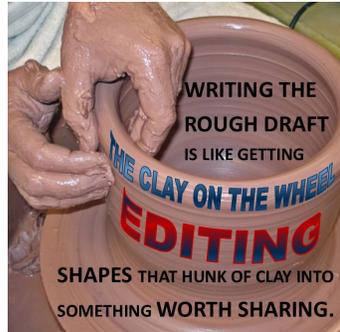
Phyllis has been involved with writing since she was a young girl and first tried to get something published when she was in third grade. Even though her initial offering was rejected she continued to love writing. She majored in journalism and wrote many articles for newspapers and magazines. She worked as editor for a couple of magazines before becoming a college professor. She loves teaching writing and journalism.

Her children’s book, *It’s Milking Time*, was published by Random House in 2012.



“So the writer who breeds more words than he needs, is making a chore for the reader who reads.”

— Dr. Seuss



Upcoming Guild Meetings

April 11, 2015 — Spring Seminar — Ginger Kolbaba

Build Your Best 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

Spring Seminar

Build Your Best Writing Skills

Ginger Kolbaba, speaker

Saturday, April 11, 2015

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Colonial Church of Edina

Secure your spot and get an early bird discount before March 28. The registration form and details can be found on the MCWG website.



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.



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

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

2015 Annual Writing Contest GUIDELINES: Magazine Article Highlighting Relationships

Relationships impact every part of our lives. Write a magazine article that brings some type of relationship to light.

Requirements—Article must:

- be from a Christian perspective or worldview.
- in some way highlight relationships, whether with God or other people, in any aspect of life.
- be written for a magazine. Target audience and target magazine publication should be indicated at the top left of the manuscript on page one.
- be typed, double-spaced, and be previously unpublished.
- include a title.
- be between 600-900 words. Word count must appear at the top left of the manuscript on page one.
- include an unattached **cover sheet** with your name, address, phone number, email, and title of article. Do not include name or contact information on the manuscript itself. This retains confidentiality during the judging process.

Guidelines for magazine article entries:

Entry deadline: Monday, April 13, 2015 at 9:00 p.m. (end of the Guild meeting).

All entrants must be members of the MCWG.**

Submit entry article and **\$5 entry fee** in an envelope, in person or by mail, to Lotis Key-Kabigting, 1586 Sussex Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the May 11, 2015 MCWG meeting.

1st Prize = \$100; 2nd Prize = \$75; 3rd Prize = \$50

Manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned. The decision of the judge is final. The judge will remain anonymous.

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

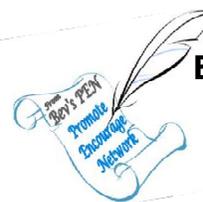
Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Seminar Director

Joyce Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com

Treasurer

Marianne McDonough
mariannemcdonough7@yahoo.com



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Prayer for Unity

Early in his ministry, Jesus selected men from a variety of backgrounds, with different temperaments and giftings, and formed them into a unified group of disciples. Empowered by God's Spirit, these men changed the world proclaiming God's Word. Each man followed the course God prepared. Some preached to the Jews, some to the Gentiles. Yet they maintained a common purpose and met together from time to time to encourage each other, pray for God's leading, reevaluate and expand the scope of their ministry, and reaffirm unity of allegiance.

In many ways our Guild reflects similarities. We write in diverse arenas and genres, but we are each called by the same Lord. We have unique strengths, talents and ideas, yet seek to proclaim Jesus Christ. More than 60 years ago, God drew together Christian writers in Minnesota to make an impact on the world. The need remains for Christian writers to bond together to proclaim Christ. Invite other writers to join us as we pray for God's guidance to expand the ways we serve the world together.

In the middle of our theme verse is a prayer. (See page one for the full theme verse.) *May God "give you a spirit of unity among yourselves...."* This month I ask you to pray for a spirit of unity on several levels.

1. Pray that Christian writers from all around the metro will come together in order for us to encourage one another and know that together we belong to Christ.
2. Pray that God will give our Guild members a passion for serving our membership and our community.
3. Pray for the Board to exercise wisdom and unity as we begin planning for next year.
4. Pray that God will open doors for writing and service opportunities.

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.