



*Living for God, Writing for People*

**February 8th**  
**Speaker, Michelle Lim**

***Idea Sparking: Brainstorming Ideas to Entice Readers***

Plotting a riveting and compelling manuscript that stands out from the thousands of novels and nonfiction books on the bookshelf takes creativity and strategic thinking. Authors must learn to think outside the box and yet create conflict reasonable and personal to their characters. Even nonfiction must compel the reader to turn the page. To make your book stand out on the bookshelf, find ways in this presentation to feed your muse and listen to its direction. Come away with new book ideas and inspiration to bring them to life. Whether you plot every detail before writing or discover your story on the journey, Michelle Lim's brainstorming ideas can help spark your imagination to create the right elements to build powerful writing.



Author Michelle Lim is the Brainstorming/Huddle Coach with My Book Therapy Press and the Midwest Zone Director for American Christian Fiction Writers. Michelle's Genesis winning romantic suspense is represented with Books & Such Literary Agency. Michelle writes devotionals for The Christian Pulse Online and Putting On The New as well as articles for her own blog, [thoughtsonplot@wordpress.com](mailto:thoughtsonplot@wordpress.com). She is a contributing author for the book *The Truth About Conferences*. Through her nonfiction book release, *Idea Sparking: How To Brainstorm Conflict In Your Novel*, through her public speaking, and through her online chats, Michelle helps writers discover ways the revolutionary power of brainstorming can bring new life to their stories.

**Next Month - March 14th**  
**Speaker: Joyce K. Ellis**

***How to Study Magazines to Increase Your Publication Potential***

Magazine editors often complain that freelance writers haven't studied their magazines before submitting manuscripts. We'll tear apart a sample magazine and individual articles to see what makes an article "just right" for our target market--or how to find the right market--and how to delight an editor by doing our homework.



**Meetings: September - May**

Every second Monday, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Oak Knoll Lutheran Church**

600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka  
One block north of Highway 394  
and Hopkins Crossroad



Fellowship Hall Entrance

**Please note:** Take the second right-hand turn into the parking lot on the west side of the church. Enter directly through the Fellowship Hall door, not the front entrance.

**2015-2016 Scripture**

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 ESV*



## The Job of a Writer

by Marianne McDonough

Usually I design and write my own Christmas cards. Sometimes I'm still scrambling on December 24th to finish, but I manage to reach the post office in time. This year, however, I was so far behind that the twelve days of Christmas elapsed first, necessitating a small apology but a long, newsy letter to compensate. Relieved, I was happy to drop my 75 treasures into the mail box.

In the letter, after a short explanation, my first topic was the passing of my husband's sister last January. A gem and lovely to both Tom and me, Rita was a remarkable woman, and I wanted to honor her memory. Unbeknownst to me and with absolutely no forethought on my part, the cards arrived to the extended family just in time for the anniversary of Rita's death. I didn't plan that. If it had been up to me, I would have mailed them in December, but apparently God had something else in mind.

When Tom called his brother-in-law, Pete, to see how he was doing, Pete commented on my card, saying, "Marianne wrote exactly how I feel. Only I couldn't have written that myself. She said what I'm feeling." I told Tom, "That's the job of a writer."

Don't you agree? Writing is a service we give to people to find words that resonate with their hearts when most needed. And isn't it good to know that God nudges us in His timing?

### Attention All Contest Writers:

Have fun writing your blog for  
LifeBenedictions.com!



Guidelines are available online and at the monthly meeting. Deadline is April 11.

### 2015-2016 Officers

#### President:

Beverly Snyder  
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#### Membership Director:

Jason Sisam  
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#### Seminar Director:

Joyce K. Ellis  
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#### Communications Director:

Marianne McDonough  
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## Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 9, 2016!

Topic: Writing Powerful Fiction,

Speaker: Jeff Gerke

Jeff Gerke, freelance editor and popular conference speaker, teaches and encourages writers to believe, "I can do this thing after all." He will describe how to write powerful stories and engage our readers.

Topics include:

- The Power of Your Hero's Inner Journey
- The Power of Plot
- The Power of Engaging Fiction (in other words, The Last Class on Show Versus Tell You'll Ever Need)
- The Power of Hacking into Your Reader's Brain

Early Bird registration opens Feb. 1st. Registration forms will be available at the Feb. 8th meeting.



### February Partner of the Month: Member with a Heart for the Guild

Thank you to our anonymous member who so generously donated funds for our February meeting. May God's abundant love bless all that you do in 2016!

Register for events, become a member, or donate to MCWG online: [mchristianwriters.com](http://mchristianwriters.com)  
MCWG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.