



Living for God, Writing for People

March 14th

Speaker: Joyce K. Ellis

How to Study Magazines to Increase Your Publication Potential

Magazine editors often say their chief complaint about freelance writers is that they obviously haven't studied the magazine before submitting manuscripts. What does it mean when they say, "Study our publication before submitting"? How do we know the best fit for our articles? We'll discover some clues by tearing 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. Please bring a sample copy of a magazine you want to write for (one that accepts freelance submissions) to this very hands-on workshop. (Others will be available if you forget, but you'll get more out of this workshop if you bring one of your own choice.)



Joyce K. Ellis is an author or coauthor of more than a dozen books and hundreds of magazine articles, writes a grammar column for Christian Communicator magazine, served as a staff editor for two Christian magazines, and currently does editing for Prayer Connect magazine. Having won numerous awards from the Evangelical Press Association for her articles, she has mentored scores of writers individually and via correspondence course, teaches at writers' conferences, and speaks for women's groups and retreats across the country and internationally.



Contest Writers: Your blog for LifeBenedictions.com is due April 11th!

You have been invited to be a guest blogger on the well-known (but fictitious) blog: Life Benedictions: Words for the Weary at LifeBenedictions.com. The audience tends to be adults from mid-20s through mid-50s with families and/or careers. Topics of interest cover a broad spectrum and range from surviving workplace rivalry to parenting multiple generations. Your assignment is to "Write for the Weary" by sharing stories that encourage readers to press on through life's periods of crisis and stress. Cash prizes! 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$75, 3rd Prize: \$50.

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



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 Nature of a Writer

by Marianne McDonough

During the January blizzards on the east coast, the Washington D.C. zoo filmed their giant Panda bear, Tian Tian, frolicking in the snow. After rolling joyously down hill, he landed belly up, batted the snow, shook it off his shoulders, and tasted it from his feet.

Watching Tian Tian, I remembered my daughters as youngsters playing in the snow. After donning typical snow apparel, they attacked the brisk outdoors with gusto to trench a snow tunnel, create a snowman, or slide down the hill by our house. When they came inside, their little pink faces gleamed while they watched me prepare hot chocolate that occasionally included marshmallows.

As I ponder the snow enthusiasts of this world, I have to mention the golden retrievers I've loved along the way, because they take snow delight to a whole new level. They romp, dive, dig noses deeply into frosty mounds, and create canine snow angels while wiggling on their backs and flailing paws in the air.

Do you know why Pandas love snow? Because it's in their nature to enjoy snow. What about kids? Similarly, playtime is as natural to children as breathing. And golden retrievers? "Fun" should be their middle name!

As writers, if we let ourselves relax like a Panda bear rolling in the snow, we can trench tunnels into worlds not imagined before, build memorable characters, slide in and out of all sort of mischief with not one bit of regret. In short, we get to romp, dive, and dig our literary noses deeply into our stories. So why do writers love to write? Because it's fun to write! It's in our nature to revel in the joy of our craft. Enjoy!

MCWG Proudly Presents April's Guest Speaker, Jeff Gerke!

Jeff Gerke is the founder of Marcher Lord Press, author of five Writers Digest instruction books, popular conference speaker, freelance editor and writing coach.

Annual Writers Seminar: April 9, 2016

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

Topic: Writing Powerful Fiction

Sessions 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

Register online or at meetings, but hurry!

Early Bird discount ends March 15th.

Next Monthly Meeting

April 11, 2016

Topic: The Power of Description

There's an old adage in theater: if it ain't on the page, it ain't on the stage. Learn how to transfer your mental images to the reader. Jeff believes in the power of description, using a cinematic and theatrical approach. Discover how, when, and why to describe your settings and characters so that your readers can see the movie in their heads.

For fiction and nonfiction writers alike. Don't miss it!



2015-2016 Officers

President:

Beverly Snyder

Bev.mcwg@comcast.net

Membership Director:

Jason Sisam

jason.mcwg@gmail.com

Communications Director:

Marianne McDonough

marianne.mcwg@outlook.com

Seminar Director:

Joyce K. Ellis

joyce@joycekellis.com

Register for events, become a member, or donate to MCWG online: mchristianwriters.com

MCWG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.