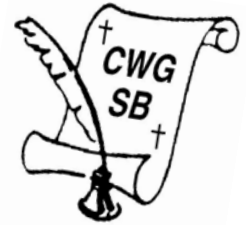


WRITER'S VOICE !



"...I recite my composition concerning the king; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Psalms 45:1 (NKJV)

Summer 2007

Volume 3, Issue 3

From the Editor ...

Greetings in the mighty name of **Jesus**.

And I suppose that if all the other events in Jesus life were written, the whole world could hardly contain the books. John 21:25 TLB

Writing books to glorify the Lord is what **CWGSB** is all about. It's so amazing to me that there seems to be no end to the books that are written about Him, and yet fresh new books keep coming on the market. What a miracle!

Mark your calendar for our **annual conference**. It seems like it couldn't get any better than last year, but this year's conference is promising to take on a whole new dimension. What a line up of speakers and workshops we have for you, including award winning authors James Scott Bell, B. J. Taylor, Julie Carobini (see her article on page two), and our own Katie Cushman. All these plus an update on what is happening in the industry of writing and book marketing.

Ned Nossaman's original poem, *Onomatopoeia*, on page four is a tongue-twister and an eye opener. We hope you have fun with it!

Encouragement is part of our mission statement. I'm sure you will agree, Elizabeth Chase's article, *Where I'm At: Beginning To Write*, certainly fulfills that need for many writers. Elizabeth is another writer who has attended one of our **CWGSB** conferences. We believe she is on the same path of success as Katie and Julie. Praise the Lord!

We welcome Dean Strellman of Santa Maria as our newest member of **CWGSB**. Dean brings in a whole new class of writing to share with us.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on October 13, 2007.

Opal Mae Dailey
Editor-In-Chief

NOTE: New
Date !

Points of Interest ...

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Writing: | P-2 |
| Don't Do it Alone . . . | |
| Conferences | P-2 |
| Make a Difference . . . | |
| Beginning To Write | P-3 |
| Where I'm at Now . . . | |
| Onomatopoeia | P-4 |
| Sound advice . . . | |
| Opal's Picks | P-4 |
| Writing wisdom . . . | |

Calendar . . .

CWGSB Monthly Meeting: 2nd Thursday

12:00 p.m.
IHOP Restaurant
1701 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA

August 25: Ventura Book Festival
For information email
venturabookfest@sbcglobal.net

September 28-29: San Diego
Christian Writers Guild Fall Conference:

www.sandiegocwg.org

October 13: 11th Annual Santa
Barbara Christian Writers Conference at Westmont College: Email
cwgsb@sbcglobal.net
(805) 682-0316

Writing: Don't Do it Alone

By Julie Carobini

"Unfortunately, this story does not suit our needs at this time."

"While your writing does not lack merit, we are unable to accept your story at this date."

"Thank you for your interest in X publishing house, but . . ."

Sound familiar? Yikes—for me too. As a long time freelancer, I've received replies like these from editors more times than I'd like to admit. The road to publication can be filled with pot-holes and daunting hills. (So maybe this is why I've always preferred the flat terrain of coastal areas . . .) Seriously, the process we writers endure can be a lonely one.

It doesn't have to be, though.

I'm a believer in writer's conferences, and have attended three hosted by the CWGSB. I remember Sherwood Wort, editor emeritus of *Decision* magazine, standing at the podium one year, fervently calling writers to band together to encourage each other. I've never forgotten that, and over the last dozen years my writing buddies have rallied in both the bad times and the good.

Another year, best-selling novelist and speaker Jack Cavanaugh told the crowd that it took eleven years for him to sell his first book. *Eleven years*. He talked about attending conference after conference, learning from other writers, and never giving up. Jack is now the author of twenty-five books and counting.

And at my last CWGSB conference, I dragged into the meeting hall, my mind in a funk. Assignments had fizzled. New ideas lay dormant. Maybe writing was no longer my thing. Author (and my long time mentor) Kathi Macias gave the keynote address that year, her message laced with the scriptural backbone to knock me out of my malaise and back into the writing life I so loved.

So, sure. Writing (and the occasional rejection letter) can be stressful and tough to take at times. But with a great network of writing friends to lean on and learn from, it doesn't have to be lonely. See you at the CWGSB conference in October.

Conferences Make a Difference

By Opal Mae Dailey

Do writers really need to go to writing conferences year after year? Let me put it this way:

- Mount Hermon held their 38th annual conference last spring.
- Santa Barbara Writers Conference just held their 35th annual conference (secular).
- Orange County and San Diego Christian Writers Guilds have been holding annual writers conferences for 30 years or longer.

I have been to all of the above at least once, and to Orange County every year except one for the past 11 years. I've noticed at each conference that much-to-do is made about so many of the same people attending year after year. I think you would agree that they must feel they are receiving a benefit or they wouldn't return.

These are some of the benefits of attending a writers conference:

- Fellowshiping with like-minded people
- Learning to polish your craft
- Learning new techniques of writing
- Keeping up with current trends in the business
- Discovering how others use their time, talents and gifts
- Striking-up new relationships that last a lifetime

These are but a fraction of the valuable nuggets you will receive when you attend an annual conference.

Each conference has its own personality. The CWGSB conference has small intimate groups with lots of interaction, as well as worship time, remembering why we are writing and who gave us our ability to write. Last October, as Debbie Wong and Kenny Larsen led us into worship, it seemed like we were all taken up into Gloryland. That sweet anointing lasted all day and it was hard for everyone to leave at 5 o'clock. Many new friendships were kindled that day.

Mount Hermon, on the other hand, sends out a letter titled, "Surviving the Mt. Hermon Christian Writers Conference." Your week of six days and nights of intense workshops, with chapel starting

at 7 a.m. and the night-owl sessions starting after the evening sessions end at 9:30-10:00 p.m., leaves you exhausted, but satisfied and full of new knowledge about writing. Praise and worship are a big part of the Mt. Hermon experience also.

While each conference has its own unique characteristics and benefits, the value you will receive by attending a variety of writers conferences will be more than the sum of the individual parts. And you could say these events are a little bit habit forming.

Good habits determine your future good success.

See you at Westmont College on October 13, 2007.



Where I'm At: Beginning To Write

By Elizabeth Ann Chase

What can I say to encourage others? I don't really know. I'm scared myself. I've never given writing my full-fledged attention. It's just something I've done over the years. Now I'm willing to try.

Have I ever truly loved writing? I recall in high school I enjoyed writing. Interpreting poems written by Chaucer, a few history papers and political science essays were well received in both my English and French classes. Later I wrote stories for an affiliate NPR radio station as a reporter after graduating from college. I discovered I truly enjoyed the artistic slant this kind of reporting afforded me. Interviewing other people and incorporating their opinions into a story gave me a sense of satisfaction I had never felt before.

This sense of satisfaction, was it a form of worldly success or was it more personal in nature? I've come to the point in my life and my relationship with the Lord that I believe worldly success, satisfaction and peace with God can be one in the same, if we allow God to be God as we follow His leadings, listening to the promptings of our hearts and His gentle whispers to our soul. The attachments

and projections I place upon success can either keep me healthy or leave me tied up in knots. So, I then ask the Savior, "How do you view what I do?" The question most often comes back to me, "Is this out of your love for Me and for others?" If my priorities are right, God most likely whispers, "You are a success."

Unfortunately, I often get robbed of this message. Instead I hear, "You're not doing enough, do more, that will never work, you think you're the one." But, GOD IS LOVE. From what we know of the scriptures, would our loving Father truly say things like that? This is where the boldness of Paul exemplifies strength in Christ. I must be tuned in to our Father no matter what anyone else says.

At present, writing and journaling have become one in the same for me. And, as a result, I've discovered that the ways writing can help me express myself might also be to encourage others to stay focused on the Lord's desire for their lives, as they seek out the writer's path. In my discoveries I've found writing can help me see and feel my emotions—right there in black and white—while I also learn to examine some gray areas of my heart. I believe these are the things that either help me move forward, go backward or remain content to stay put where I'm at.

Some leapfrog, some crawl and some keep hopping along. But, no matter what pace we may be making, it's God's love in our lives that matters the most to keep us peaceful, healthy and strong. And by wanting to do His will as we write for Him, we encourage others who want to become writers too.

"Write as well as you can and finish what you start."

— Ernest Hemingway

"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world."

— Mother Teresa

Onomatopoeia . . .

By Ned Nossaman

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia comes to us from ancient Greek.
It means that when you say a word, you hear it when you speak.

The word itself says what it is and gives a clear idea
of what it means by how it sounds. That's onomatopoeia.

If you have heard a drip, drip, drip, meow or squeak or chirp,
or squishy-squash across a marsh, snap, crackle, pop, or slurp;
if a thud, a rasp, a cackling or kerplunk you've ever heard,
then onomatopoeia is the functionary word.

Yes, how it sounds is what it means,
and should you choose to seek...
onomatopoeia happens
seven days a week.

CWGSB wishes a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

♥♥♥ **Opal Mae Dailey on August 24th.** ♥♥♥

Thank you for all you do for us.

We love and pray for you. God bless you!

WRITER'S VOICE !

A Publication of
**Christian Writers Guild
of
Santa Barbara**

P.O. Box 42429
Santa Barbara, CA 93140
(805) 682-0316

Email: cwgsb@sbcglobal.net

Editor-In-Chief

Opal Mae Dailey

Associate Editors

Corrinne Abele

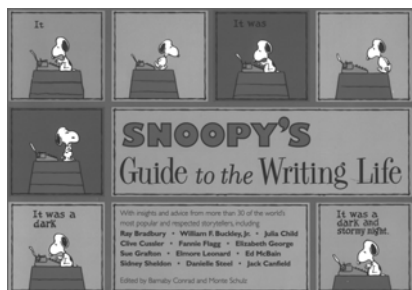
Michael Abele

Writer's Voice is published quarterly and is included with the \$20 annual membership fee to the Christian Writers Guild of Santa Barbara.

We welcome your input: ideas, suggestions and article submissions. Please use the addresses above.

Opal's Picks . . .

By Opal Mae Dailey



Snoopy's Guide to the Writing Life, edited by Barnaby Conrad and Monte Schulz. The book of Proverbs tells us, "Laughter doeth good like a medicine" (OMD paraphrase), so get ready for a double dose when you read this collection of more than 180 heartwarming and hilarious Snoopy-at-the-typewriter comic strips by Charles Schulz. The book includes 32 essays by some of the world's most popular and respected storytellers about the joys and realities of writing, and giving advice and ideas inspired by America's most beloved writer-dog. It's amazing how a person can be alive through his writings, many, many years after he has gone on to be with the Lord.

Just Write! An Essential Guide for Launching Your Writing Career, by Susan Titus Osborn, is like having your own coach and mentor. In only 172 pages, Susan has managed to pack all of the essentials of writing plus wisdom and inspiration. This book is everything the beginner needs and a refresher course for the advanced writer. We all need to go back to the basics once in a while. Susan's book takes us there.

