



Penwheels

For Escapees Writers . . . Published or Not

Spring, 2012

MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR:

"You've got to love libraries.

You've got to love books.

You've got to love poetry.

You've got to love everything about literature.

Then, you can pick the one thing you love most and write about it."

~ Ray Bradbury

I saw this quote and it fit so well with my thoughts about Beth Ramos, our Penwheels Volunteer who has been doing the printing and mailing of the Newsletter since the Summer of 2007. We both started our Volunteer experience with Penwheels at the same time and a wonderful time it has been.

Beth tendered her resignation in February because she accepted the position of treasurer of the *Friends of the Library* group and expects it will take more than all her spare time as the ground breaking for a new library is set for March 7th. She has done this spring mailing and hands over the challenge of printing and mailing the hard copies of the Newsletter to Helen Taylor (SKP #295) for the Summer (Solstice) issue. Helen has been a wonderful contributor both to the Forum and to the Newsletter and we do welcome her with open arms.

When we first went on the road eleven years ago, my biggest fear was that I would get bored. After all, I had lived in a fairly high powered work environment for the past 30 years. Writing has not only become what I do, it has become my passion. Penwheels has meant a lot to me: I have learned so much about writing and marketing. Penwheels has given me the opportunity and confidence to pursue my chosen life-style. *I love it!!*

We each write for our own reasons – Penwheels exists because we have a passion for the art of writing and we want to learn and share. Penwheels and the Newsletter are but two vehicles to reach out and share our passion with like-minded people.

In this issue, resources take center stage to help us learn and improve our skills and relate to potential editors (*Thanks, Jaimie*). We also get a chance to see what other writers are doing.

Thanks and Enjoy!

Lynne Benjamin

PS It's not a typo it's the Canadian way

“Submission” for the Summer Issue:

I don't mean to complain but . . .

Send hard-copy submissions to:

Lynne Benjamin

c/o Joanne Alexakis, 140 Rainbow Drive #4093,

Livingston TX 77399-1040

Soft copies to: 2firststep@gmail.com

Submission due date: June 1, 2012

This issue:

- Penwheels Financial statement
- Connecting with Penwheels
- What's Gone on between Then and Now
- Contributions
- *I've been published* – Bragging Rights!
- BLOG List
- Resources

PENWHEELS BoF
Financial Statement for 2011

Balance January 1, 2011	\$788.63
Income Jan 1 - Dec 31	\$312.00
Expenses Jan 1 - Dec 31 (Photocopying newsletters, postage)	(\$88.71)

Balance December 31, 2011	\$1,011.92

Number of members on Jan. 1, 2011 = 49
Number of members on Dec. 31, 2011 = 52

Submitted by Joanne Alexakis, SKP #19367
Penwheels BoF membership coordinator
Submitted - January 1, 2012

Connecting with Penwheels

To join the **Penwheels** bulletin board and get daily (almost) digests, send a blank e-mail to:
penwheels-subscribe@yahoo.com
Please send an e-mail to Alice (youshoulda@aol.com) with your
Name, SKP# and when you joined Penwheels BoF

Meet your fellow Penwheelers

*Post your photo at the Penwheels website, so we can 'get a look' at each other.
It would be awesome for me personally to visit our PW website and see our
entire group smiling back at me.
Joanne Alexakis SKP#19367*

What's Gone on between Then and Now

Preserving Your Memories – Contributed by Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, SKP# 19361

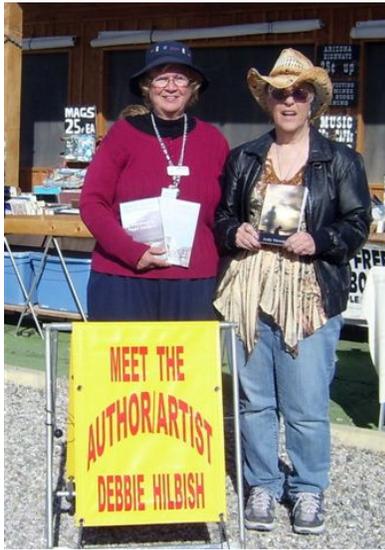
*The Rim Country District of Arizona Press Women held a workshop on preserving your memories recently. Dee Dees, the morning speaker, is known as the “life story lady.” She has helped many people record their life experiences and compile them into books to pass on to future generations. Her book, *Write Your Life Story in 28 Days* is a guide for compiling your own information (or that of a relative) and then putting it in book form. Most of the chapters are designed to help you trigger memories about various topics and milestones of your life. If you*

follow the steps, you would have a good start on your own memoirs. Her book is available at Amazon for \$15.

The afternoon session featured Brenda Hamric of *Scrapbooks, Metal and More* - a shop in Payson - who showed us examples of altered books as a creative way to preserving memories. She demonstrated and then we practiced two techniques. Altered books are a fun way to preserve memories about a specific event or trip.

You take a hardback book at least two and one-half inches thick and add mementos, cut-outs, and other decorations to personalize and house your memories. It can be an individual or even a group project.

Penwheelers in Quartzsite and Chiriaco Summit – Contributed by Darlene Miller



Darlene Miller and Judy Howard

I didn't hear of any writing workshops in Quartzsite this year but I met several Penwheelers. **Judy Howard**, who wrote,

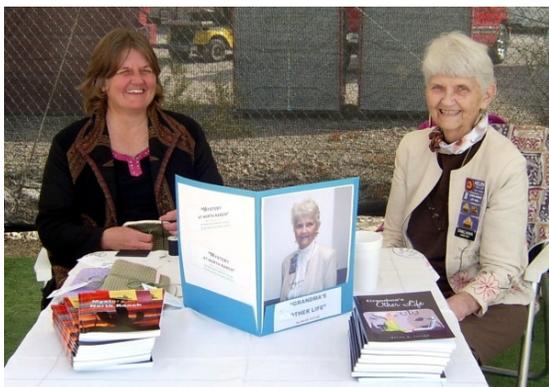


Judy Howard and Paul Winer

Coast to Coast with a Cat and a Ghost and I spent Wednesday January 25, 2012 at Readers Oasis bookstore. She was selling her book: while I sold my *RV Chuckle* books.

Jaimie and George Bruzenak met my husband Terry and I at Happy Hour at the Escapees Boomer encampment in the desert.

I missed meeting Terry Hager, a high school classmate, (he wrote *Death on the Night Watch* and has had several articles in Escapees Magazine) at Quartzsite. So Terry and Ruth (Hager) traveled east and my husband Terry and I traveled west and we met near the General Patton Museum at the Chiriaco Summit Café. Lunch was good and we had no problem conversing about our father's and teacher's participation WWII, our writing, and RVing in general.



*Editors Note: Helen Taylor SKP #295 was also at the Author's Fair. The organizer (Debbie) sent me the following photo of Helen and her daughter, Rhoda. Helen recently wrote and published **Grandma's Other Life**. Helen is our new Printing & Mailing Volunteer.*

Contributions

Newsletter Thoughts - Contributed by Barbara A. Bowers, SKP #77439

The newsletter should be by everyone in the group.

As I transitioned into the position of editor of not one, but two groups newsletters, that was the thought that went through my mind. In the two months since I began gathering information to fill the pages, I have found it a struggle to obtain enough material. Repeated requests for articles to complete the columns have gone mostly unanswered. Deadlines loom as I struggle to make one and a half pages stretch to eight. I could write some filler pieces, but I do not want this to be the Barbara Show.

Contributed by Darlene Miller (for the Summer 2011 Newsletter) (Editor's Note: Oops, I missed it, sorry Darlene)

What is most important to me depends on where I am.

- If I'm feeling sick, I want to be well.
- If I'm feeling happy, I want to sing.
- If I'm feeling lonely, I want company.
- If I'm feeling thankful, I want to pray.
- If I feel an unfilled need, I also pray.
- If I have a thought that won't go away, I need to write.

Some things are important no matter how I'm feeling. They are family, friends, love and beauty.

Contributed by Sam Penny, SKP# 41036

I feel like a professional author now. It is a funny feeling. For background, I just published my third novel, *Was a Time When*, to go with my first two about the 7.9 Scenario of a New Madrid earthquake, and now my author page looks impressive at Amazon.

About the "feel funny" comment: apart from the labor of doing background research, building a believable plot, and typing the words into my laptop, the rest of the work in writing a novel has become very smooth and easy. This time I did not fight the self-righteous emotions that I could write perfect English, or that I could simply leach off my friends and family for editing services. This time I hired a professional editor to do a comprehensive clean-up of the book.

I again used the services of CreateSpace.com (nee booksurge.com) to do the formatting and type-setting, but I supplied the cover. The only error there was I was told in no uncertain terms that the tag-line on the cover must match exactly with the tag-line on the inside title page. So both places now say A Novel That Asks, rather than saving some space on the cover.

I did learn a new skill, Kindle books. kdp.amazon.com lets you provide a book to put up as a Kindle file at no charge. You just have to have a clean book in .doc format with a good cover and follow their instructions. I actually did that for all three novels and have made over 50 sales during January. It was all amazingly easy.

I still need to get busy on the book marketing end of things, and I will be doing a "book tour" as a business reason for our travels this summer. By the way, take a look at my website www.wasatimewhen.com for more information about my books. If you have questions or comments, they are always welcome.

Thoughts – Contributed by Alice Zyetz

I just finished singing the lead role in the musical Gypsy. I was Mama Rose in our Jojoba Hills production. What does this have to do with writing? My part was very dramatic and I realized that I was able to play her different personas because over the years I've been a student of people's personalities. When I would say how much I admire people who write description so beautifully, my good friend Betty Prange said how much she liked my dialogue. So my message is to appreciate what you do rather than criticize yourself for what you don't do as well.

I've Been Published – Bragging Rights!***Let Us Know About Your Current Publications***

- **Your Name and SKP #**
- **Title of Piece**
- **Magazine or Book and Date**

- **Barbara A. Bowers**, SKP# 77439
 - Newsletter editor for *Escapees Chapter 48--The Iowa Wild Roses*.
 - Newsletter editor position for the *Escapees Christian Fellowship BoF*
- **Julianne Crane**, SKP# 103813 contributes articles as the Recreational Vehicle Lifestyle Specialist to *Motor Matters*, an automotive content provider to major and weekly newspapers and automotive dealership data providers across the United States. More at <http://motormatters.biz/about.php>
- **Terry Hager**, SKP# 48315, *Last Call for Murder: Reverend Rob Vander Laan series*, self-published – available at amazon.com.
Blurb: It's 1970 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When amateur sleuth Reverend Rob is mugged behind a bar and the go-go dancers there begin to disappear, his clerical collar and his faith may not be enough to save him.
- **Darlene Miller**, *Return to Mississinewa, Smoke and Fire News*, December 2011
 - An historical article was about the re-enactment of the War of 1812 along the Mississinewa River near Marion, Indiana.
 - **Bi-monthly children's page** for the *Radiant Native Health Magazine*, (for over a year) the latest issue is Vol. 4 No. 2 (It has a circulation of 10,000). It is a magazine with assigned health issues given to the Native Americans in Canada and the USA. by missionaries.
- **Sam Penny**, SKP# 41036, *Was a Time When* is now a rapidly selling book, both as a Kindle file and as a printed book. It is also beginning to get some attention. The Press Release for the book is found at <http://www.i-newswire.com/sam-penny-announces-publication/152764> Links are provided to places to order the book.
 - See <http://crash-watcher.blogspot.com/2012/01/sam-pennys-was-time-when.html> for a review of the book by Crash Watcher on his blog. (*He compares my book with Jim Kunstler's World Made By Hand which in itself is a kudo.*)
(Editor's note: Congratulations, Sam! I'm certainly thinking differently since I read WATW)

Resources

Resource Contributions from Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, SKP# 19361

- For those interested in a variety of writing for children, this article at Writer's Weekly has lots of resources. http://www.writersweekly.com/this_weeks_article/007089_12142011.html
- Information and resources for reviewing books - You can get paid for some. The author tells how to find books that will be coming out and how to get advance copies. This appears in this week's issue of Writer's Weekly.
http://www.writersweekly.com/this_weeks_article/007186_02082012.html

- **The First Line**, P.O. Box 250382, Plano, TX 75025-0382. P(972)824-0646.

Email: info-at-thefirstline.com Website: <http://thefirstline.com/>

Robin LaBounty, Manuscript Coordinator.

"The purpose of *The First Line* is to jump start the imagination-to help writers break through the block that is the blank page. Each issue contains short stories that stem from a common first line; it also provides a forum for discussing favorite first lines in literature. The First Line is an exercise in creativity for writers and a chance for readers to see how many different directions we can take when we start from the same place."

- **Editing:** Too many people skip on editing and it shows. The article on 3 types of editing would, in my opinion, be a good one for Penwheels

The 3 Main Types of Editing by **Gary McLaren** (Author of [The Indie Author's Guide to Publishing Ebooks](#)) Find me on the web at PYOEbooks.com and WorldwideFreelance.com Follow my e-publishing news and updates via: [Twitter.com/PYOEbooks](https://twitter.com/PYOEbooks) [Facebook.com/PYOEbooks](https://facebook.com/PYOEbooks) [Google+ Page](#) . (Editors note: this was copied with permission from Gary McLaren, author)

Editing your manuscript is a very important stage of the publishing process. This is especially true when you are self-publishing your own books or ebooks.

Yet many indie authors think that they can skip over editing completely and they publish books that are poorly written and filled with errors.

I have downloaded ebooks by dozens of indie authors who are guilty of this and it really is a shame. It is difficult enough trying to publish a bestselling book yet these authors are shooting themselves in the foot before their book launches. Some of the stories I have read are actually very good but through a lack of editing the authors let themselves down.

How many readers refrained from leaving a good review because of the typos and errors? And how many readers have been driven (away from indie books) back to ebooks from traditional publishing houses because of poor experiences?

What is involved in editing? The amount of work involved in editing a manuscript depends upon the state of the manuscript and also on what type of editing you would like.

Here are the three main types of editing:

Critiquing: this involves a critique of the manuscript to identify strengths and weaknesses. For fiction it includes an evaluation of character development, background setting, and plot resolution. A critique is usually done when you expect to rewrite your manuscript based on the feedback you receive.

Substantive Language Editing: this type of editing looks to correct a number of problems such as using the same words too many times and overusing adjectives or adverbs.

It includes sentence reconstruction and word replacement in addition to regular proofreading (as detailed below).

Proofreading: this type of editing is usually a check for grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes.

Who Will Edit Your Book? Remember as a self-publisher you don't have to do everything yourself, and editing is definitely one of the tasks best left to somebody else.

- If you want to edit your own books then I recommend that you read "[Be Your Own Editor](#)" by Sigrid MacDonald.
- If you would like to find an editor: check out the directory at the [Editorial Freelancers Association](#).

*Note from Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, SKP# 19361
Writer's Journal has folded.*

- **Terry Hager**, SKP# 48315 - Createspace at amazon.com is a great way to self-publish.

BLOG and Web-site List

Lynne Benjamin

- <http://firststep-andlifegoeson.blogspot.com/>
- <http://lynnefred-winter.blogspot.com/>

Barbara Bowers

- <http://blessed-b.blogspot.com/>

Jaimie Bruzenak

- <http://blog.rvlifestyleexperts.com/>

Julianne G Crane

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- <http://www.elaineseavey.wordpress.com>

PENWHEELS

An Escapees RV Club Birds-of-a-feather (BOF) group for RVers interested in writing of all kinds. Some are published and some are not. The purpose of Penwheels is to establish a support network of RVing writers for sharing information, discussion, critiques, and socializing in person, snail and electronic mail.

Penwheels is published four times a year. Subscription is \$8 (USD) per year. In order to belong to any SKP BOF group, you must be a member in good standing of the **Escapees RV Club**. You may contact the Club at 1-888-757-2582.

Editorial submissions are best submitted via e-mail to: 2firststep@gmail.com

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