

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

January 2010
Volume 3, Issue 1

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



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Welcome to the January 2010 issue of Write What Inspires You!

Happy New Year! May 2010 be filled with health, happiness, and publishing successes!

I'm finally better from a string of illnesses that have plagued me for most of November and December and I'm re-energized for 2010. During the last part of 2009 I became quite frustrated that my health was not up to par and finally listened to sound advice from my family and writing community. "Take the time to get better and you will have a more positive outlook on 2010." I'm glad I did, because to tell you the truth during November and December I contemplated in throwing in the writing towel out of sheer frustration in not being productive and I came very close to losing my perspective. I'm thrilled I hung in there. Because with the prompting of Suzanne Lieurance at the CWCC I began the new year with a weekly marketing plan. And I have to tell you it felt great to sit down yesterday to re-visit my previous goals in 2009 and to get rid of what wasn't working and to expand on what has been working. It truly provided me a game plan to hit the ground running or should I say the good old pen, paper, and keyboard.

What are your writing and marketing plans for 2010? I'd enjoy you stopping by my blog on Wednesday, January 10th to share them with me and my readers. I look forward to your visit. I too plan on sharing my goals.

Congratulations to Terry Lynn Johnson in being the winner for the DRAWING of "You Are More Than Enough, Every Woman's Guide to Purpose, Passion & Power," by Judi Moreo and as an added BONUS Moreo's Achievement Journal will be included.

It is my pleasure to present to you interviews with Irene Roth and Claudette Young, and Reflections or Dreams column by Joseph Sottile. Don't miss the goodies: Blog Content Request, Dynamic Media Release Service, Inde-Debut 2010, First Book, Muse Online Conference, Newsletters, and Sponsor Ads.

If you are interested, please feel free to submit your name for an interview, an essay and/or your successes to: dmcldine@optonline.net. Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber.

Wishing you ALL a wonderful start to 2010 and beyond!

Donna

Quote of the Month: "It is one thing to have a key in your possession and quite another to actually insert it into a lock and use it to open something. It is one thing to see a rainbow, yet another to go and get the gold that we know is there at the end. Both require effort. And it is helpful to still believe in magic." Dyan Garris, Voice of the Angels – The Book of Daily Channeled Messages

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – IRENE ROTH

Irene and I first met via cyberspace when she reached out to me through my blog and she then became a member of my online critique group with fellow members, Lori Calabrese and Stephanie Hoina. We are now both members of the Children's Writers' Coaching Club too, led by Suzanne Lieurance. Recently, Irene delighted me with her insightful interview.

DMc: When did you decide you wanted to become an author? Do you have another job besides writing?

IR: I knew that I wanted to be a writer when I was a young adolescent. I used to sit and journal for hours on end. I just loved doing that. Yes, I have another job other than writing. I teach part time as well.

DMc: Please share with us your publishing successes in the academic arena.

IR: I have published two books, twelve articles and over a hundred reviews in academic journals.

DMc: Were you an avid reader as a child? What type of books did you enjoy reading?

IR: Yes, I was an avid reader as a child. I started reading Aristotle and Plato when I was twelve and all kinds of novels, from the Classics to the current day.

DMc: Describe your working environment.

IR: My working environment is thrilling in many ways. I love to work with my students and I also love to write. I feel blessed because I am doing the two things that I wanted to do since I was a child.

DMc: Are you a disciplined writer?

IR: Yes, I am a disciplined writer and have been for over twenty years. I have been writing two hours most mornings for over twenty years, except if I am sick or there is an emergency. I produce a lot of manuscripts this way.

DMc: Have you ever suffered from writer's block? What seems to work for unleashing your creativity?

IR: No, I never have mercifully. I find writing very comforting and leveling for me.

DMc: Technically speaking, what do you have to struggle the most when writing? How do you tackle it?

IR: I struggle with revising my manuscripts because I find it hard to do. It takes a lot of time, and is tedious. Also, I'm not a good proofreader of my own work.

The way I handle the first difficulty is I set a timer for revisions say an hour in which I will read over a chapter or an article. And that really helps me a lot.

For the second difficulty, I have a friend proofread my work and I do the same for her.

DMc: What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

IR: Be persistent and don't quit.

DMc: What advice would you give for the newbie writer?

IR: Be patient when it comes to publishing your manuscripts. It takes a long time so be kind with yourself. Have a positive attitude and work hard at developing your craft and it will happen!

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Irene can you please share one with us?

IR: When I was in second grade one of my teachers asked me:

"Irene what would you like to be when you grow up?"

I was stunned by the question. But after a second I said:

"A writer." The teacher looked as surprised as I was because I didn't know what a writer was in those days.

Many years later, I realized that I knew all along that I was a writer and here I am. That is precisely what I enjoy doing and what gives my life meaning.

Learn more about Irene at:

Blog: www.szabowska.wordpress.com

Book Review Blog: www.ireneroth.wordpress.com

Member of: www.scwbicanada.com

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - CLAUDETTE YOUNG

At the time of meeting Claudette I had no idea with had a mutual writing friend, Irene Roth and I thought what better way to kick off 2010 but to interview both for my January 2010 newsletter. Come along for this wonderful interview with Claudette.

DMc: When did you decide you wanted to become an author? Do you have another job besides writing?

CY: My love of writing began during childhood. Ha! I wrote my first, very bad play when I was eleven and my first novel, an adult romance, when I was twelve. You might say I was ahead of my time on that one.

Early retirement carried a built-in boredom factor for me. In the last quarter of 2008 I began taking writing seriously and have been filling pages with words ever since. ICL gave me an opportunity to focus and learn.

DMc: Do you belong to a critique group? If yes, what do you feel is the most important aspect of such a group?

CY: I belong, actually, to two critique groups. It provides objectivity to point the spotlight at trouble areas in a manuscript. I need the suggestions for fixes for tricky spots where I haven't found the most perfect word or phrase to enliven the piece or motivate the character. It's like having a third eye catching all of those places that the writer's own eyes and mind skip over the words during a read through.

DMc: Do you belong to any children's writing groups? If yes, which ones and what type of support do you give and get from them?

CY: The ICL Retreat group is my most prominent writer's group at present. I'd be lost without them, in many ways. They are my writing family, the ones who give me tips on everything from marketing and submissions, writing workshops with experts in their fields, answers to technical questions, and genuine personal support of me as a person and writer. They are my nuclear family made up of sisters and brothers in the writing game.

I also belong to the Children's Writer's Network, and I gain both perspective and support from them as well. There's JacketFlap with its large international component, and Facebook's writer's group headed by Simon Rose. Children's Writers and Illustrators group. I gain knowledge and experience through each one.

DMc: What is your approach in marketing yourself?

CY: That phrase does conjure up images of going door-to-door, doesn't it? For now, though, I rely on my friends and colleagues, my door-to-door blogs, and my writer's groups. It's very difficult to market something that isn't ready for the stands yet. And until I have a book deal or several published pieces under my belt, it's hard to market myself. I can only try to provide some of my own hard-won insights for others to think on and work diligently to improve my own skills.

DMc: What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

CY: I think that would be not to take myself too seriously. If my words become too important to be edited (taking myself and my work too seriously), I will never reach my own potential. Writing itself will no longer be fun, either.

DMc: Please share with us some of your recent publication successes?

CY: I suppose that all depends on your definition of successes. I've only had one poetic piece picked up so far by publisher for an anthology. But that one small taste was enough to keep me pounding a keyboard. They'd have to carry me out in a large shoe box to get me to quit the business now.

DMc: Do you use any of your life experiences in your writing?

CY: All the time. I think that's what draws many to begin writing. We need to see some of ourselves on those pages in some form, even if it's just exploring the possibilities of our own early fears as Stephen King did. For me it comes down to a matter of being able, finally, to experience all those adventures I'd always wanted to have, meet the different kinds of people out there, or learn all those peculiar and quirky things that make life such fun.

DMc: Please share with us your work environment.

CY: Ha! I just got back a couple of weeks ago from two months away from home. My office is in chaos right now. I have one small room with my books, computer, five foot library table, a rather rickety straight chair and tons of boxes. My work table looks like a cyclone hit it.

Normally, I am extremely organized, but these last two unexpected trips threw me off center and I haven't reset my gyroscope yet. I have two days a week with only those interruptions that I create, which is a marvelous blessing, because playing catch-up takes lots of time for me.

DMc: Where can our readers visit you to learn more about your writing career?

CY: I have my blog at: <http://claudsy.wordpress.com/> I post a new piece every other day or so; every day when I find the time or something interesting strikes my fancy. I also have a smaller blog on the Children's Writer's Network.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Claudette, can you please share one with us?

CY: Most people don't realize that I have very little vision left. After all, I wear glasses - those that seem a foot thick sometimes, but glasses none the less. Like most in my position, I use a variety of techniques to compensate for that. Yet, for all the new limits that were set for me when that verdict came down, I have managed to travel more, learn more, meet more people for inspiration and contact value, work in more technical and responsible positions, etc. than I ever did before that verdict.

I find it amazing how freeing an experience setting limits for a person can become. I'm obstinate by nature, so I was determined never to allow the limits to define who I was or what I could do. The same goes for the writing business. My folks learned when I was very young. Never tell Claudette that she can't do something. She'll find a way to do it just to spite you. That still stands true today.



Calling all writers!

Want to become a contributor to a terrific blog and get your name out there beyond your own blog and/or website? Look no further, J. Aday Kennedy is looking for content for her blog <http://jadaykennedy.blogspot.com>.

Contact her today at: jessicakennedy1971@yahoo.com and get a dialogue going on her needs and yours. You'll be happy you did!

REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS

Good!!

By Joseph Sottile

One the top of my paper the teacher wrote "Good!"
in red marker.

I wonder what was so "Good!"

About my paper.

Was my heading "Good!" ?

Did I follow directions "Good!" ?

Was my story "Good!" ?

Were my characters "Good!" ?

Was my setting "Good!" ?

Was the conflict "Good!" ?

Was my thinking "Good!" ?

Was my handwriting "Good!" ?

I wonder what was so "Good!"

About my paper.

I should ask about my "Good!"

Paper.

I will ask about my "Good!"

Paper.

After all, she's a good teacher.



Overwhelmed? Don't have time to write and post your media releases. Let the panic settle and don't fret any longer. Let Donna take the pressure off. Writing a media release requires a certain technique and online media distribution can be quite time consuming. Coupled with her marketing manager experience at Stories for Children Magazine, Donna is uniquely positioned to help provide you with a top notch media release.

You'll discuss your good news and happenings to get a clear indication of your direction. Your valuable information will then be written into a dynamic media release. Even if you don't have publishing credits under your belt, announcing guest interviews or your topic of choice will help draw traffic and recognition to you and your writing blog.

Don't wait. Let Donna take the pressure off you today. References furnished upon request.

Contact information: Donna McDine / dmcaine@optonline.net / 845-359-6646
<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>



Do you have a book coming out in 2010? If your press is not listed in Children's Writers & Illustrators Market, you won't be eligible for online marketing groups like Class of 2K10 or Authors Now! Many small presses aren't listed.

So...Amy Allgeyer Cook is putting together a group for debut authors in this situation. The group is called: Inde-Debut and it's open to anyone who has a book coming out in 2K10 with a small or CWIM-unlisted press.

Publishers just need to be members of Independent Book Publishers of America, Small Publishers Association of North America or listed in the Small Press section on SCBWI's PAL application form.

We hope to gather about twenty to thirty authors to help each other with publicity in their areas, through blog tours, virtual book launches, tweets, Facebook posts, etc. Plus, it never hurts to have new author friends!!

If you're interested, please email me with your publisher, title and release date. I'll send you an invitation to the group if your publisher meets the criteria listed above.

Contact Amy Allgeyer Cook at: amyacook@live.com



DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MAGIC
OF YOUR
FIRST BOOK?

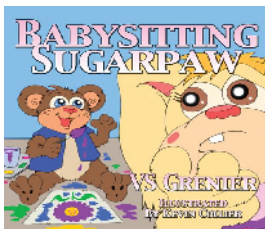
VS Grenier has joined forces with First Book to help children find the love of reading and writing. Here is what Bonnie Johnson from First Book had to say about me joining their cause.

"First Book provides new books to children in need addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy – access to books. Since 1992, First Book has distributed over 65 million new books to children from low-income families in thousands of communities nationwide.

"Programs that serve predominantly children from low-income families can receive books from First Book and that is why VS Grenier has joined First Book in our fight to bring children their first book.

"First Book works with many different authors and/or publishers big and small! We are thrilled to be working with VS Grenier at First Book in our donation program. We have done similar donations and generally because First Book works with thousands of recipient groups across the country we try to find a group near an author and/or publisher that could benefit from a donation such as this."

However, getting a book into a child's hands is much harder than it sounds and so I need your help. You can help me bring a child their first book a few different ways.



1. Place an order for an autographed copy of Babysitting SugarPaw and 25% of the sale will go to books for First Book. Place your order at <http://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>
2. Buy and donate Babysitting SugarPaw to First Book. Once we reach the 100 book level, First Book will proceed in donating the books to a group in my local area where I get to personally hand each child their First Book. You can place your donation at <http://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>
3. Tell your friends about Babysitting SugarPaw and how I have joined forces with First Book in bring children their first book. You can use this announcement or parts of it on our blog, website, or social networks.

If you would like to know more about First Book please visit their website at <http://www.firstbook.org>

To learn more about VS Grenier and her picture book Babysitting SugarPaw visit <http://vsqrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>



If you missed the 2009 Muse Online Writers Conference be sure to visit <http://themuseonlinewritersconference.com> to register for the 2010 conference.

Don't miss out on this one of a kind conference.

To be held October 11-17, 2010

Block out the week so you have the chance to snuggle into your most comfortable clothes and slippers. That way you are your most comfortable while navigating the cyberspace hallways of the Muse Online Writers Conference.

Jammed packed with week long workshops, lectures, pitch sessions, networking. You name it the Muse Online Writers Conference has it.

Check out the testimonials coming in for 2009 at:

<http://www.themuseonlinewritersconference.com/2009testimonials.htm>



Ever wish you had a go-to place to find all the latest children's literature give-aways on the web? Look no further! Lori Calabrese has started a new monthly meme (if there's enough

interest, it might possibly become a weekly meme) in which she links to book giveaways around the Kidlitosphere and web.

If you are hosting a children's- young adult book-related giveaway, sponsoring a giveaway, or just found a really awesome giveaway that you'd like to share, please leave it at Fish For a Free Book! <http://loricalabrese.com/category/giveaways/fish-for-a-free-book-meme/>

NEWSLETTERS



Looking for the latest children's literature news? Don't have time to scour all of the blogs out there (and we know there are a ton!), but would like to be pointed in the direction of some of the best articles and gossip?

Be sure to sign up for The Book Bugz Newsletter from [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#) The Book Bugz Newsletter flutters your way once a month and covers all of the latest children's book buzz—everything from the latest children's literature news, things happening throughout the Kidlitosphere, book reviews & recommendations, book giveaways, and tips for writers on writing and marketing.

Lori is so interested in what other writers and bloggers have to say. After becoming inspired from the wealth of information out there regarding children's books and children's literacy, she wanted to create a newsletter that not only highlights what's happening at [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#), but also highlights the recent news being talked about throughout the kidlitosphere.

The subscription is FREE and subscribing is easy. Just visit the NEW! [Lori Calabrese Writes! blog](#) and subscribe at the top right sidebar. Then we'll be buzzing about children's books in the November issue of The Book Bugz!



MOVEMENT AND RHYTHM NEWSLETTER

Attention all educators, home schooling parents, and librarians!

Kathy Stemke, Freelance Writer, Author, and Educator has a fantastic newsletter jammed packed with tips and activities your students and children will surely be thrilled to join in on. To become an opt-in subscriber today and to learn more about Kathy visit:

<http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/>

At <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/> you will also find important information on movement activities, book reviews, and parenting tips which will help parents and teachers teach children phonics, math, writing and science! All this at your fingertips and in your email in-box...you surely can't go wrong.



At SFC Newsletter for Writers, we believe writers naturally want to help along those starting out. I know you will enjoy this monthly newsletter loaded with helpful information, fun stories about the writing life, and the successes of fellow writers.

Voted one of the 101 Best Websites for Writers by Writer's Digest 2009

<http://storiesforchildrenpublishing.com/SFCNewsletterforWriters.aspx>

SUPPORTER ADS



Award-winning author of the HowToDoIt tFrugally Series of Books for writers, including USA Book News' award winners

The Frugal Editor <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0978515870/>

The Frugal Book Promoter <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/193299310X/>



If you'd like to become a published children's book author yourself, join the Children's Writers' Coaching Club like I did, at the National Writing for Children Center and get the help you need to succeed - <http://www.cwcoachingclub.com>



[Lea Schizas](http://leaschizeditor.com), is a multi-published and award-winning author and editor. Her commitment is to help you tighten your manuscript before it's submitted to agents or publishers. She will stick with your manuscript until we are both satisfied of the conclusion ~ <http://leaschizeditor.com>



Need A Manuscript Critique?

Do you have a wonderful story, but need a second pair of eyes to look it over?

VS Grenier will look for grammar, spelling, setting, plot, character development, and so much more. Critiques are designed to help us become better writers. We all need our stories looked at by others who have experience in the writing world. VS Grenier was voted one of the Top Ten Editors ~ Preditors & Editors Readers Poll 2007. To find out more about VS Grenier's critique services visit: <http://vsgrenier.com/critiques.aspx>

Karina L. Fabian

Fiction, Faith and Fun!

<http://www.fabianspace.com>

<http://www.dragoneyepi.net>

You have a book published! Now what? No money for a publicist? If you're new to book marketing and want to learn how to help your publisher sell your book, the Marketing Mentor is here for you! Karina Fabian, published author and instructor, offers classes, mentoring and a task-oriented newsletter to teach you how to market your books. No longer can publishers do all the publicity themselves--we need to make readers want our books. The Marketing Mentor can get you started. Go to www.fabianspace.com and click on Marketing Mentor for a description of programs and prices.



Parents, grandparents and caregivers often hear these familiar words: "I'm bored, there's nothing to do." And the most famous of all while traveling – "Are We There Yet?" Now -- There's an App for that.

iKids Play™ by Shering Solutions LLC, is the perfect creative play activity developed by educators and now available for iPhone/iPod Touch through this new App. Sue Thurman's, *Maybe We Are Flamingos*, is now available in this innovative format, at the Apple Store in the iTunes section.

Your child can use the Rub 'n Color activity, which is perfect for small fingers providing the ability to magically reveal pictures. The Touch 'n Color allows children to select one of many colors, then use their finger as a crayon to color the illustrations. This is the perfect way to color without breaking or misplacing crayons on a long trip. The iRead Aloud function will let your child read the story and record it in their voice, or listen to Storytime read by Safari Sue Thurman. Adults also love these fun activities, when they can get their children to share.

Read more at: <http://www.examiner.com/x-2174-Arizona-Family-Examiner>

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We DETEST spam and we do not share or sell our mailing list
To unsubscribe from this newsletter, simply send an email to: dmcldine@optonline.net with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed.

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