

# Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

August/September 2010  
Volume 3, Issue 6

Donna M. McDine  
Children's Author



## Welcome to the August/September 2010 issue Write What Inspires You!

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My apologies for the lateness in my newsletter, life has been a whirlwind. I hope this issue of Write What Inspires You newsletter finds you well and that you had an enjoyable summer.

Time feels like it is going at warp speed and it's even harder to imagine that 9 years have gone by since terrorists attacked our fine nation. I'd like to take a moment to remember all those that perished, the emergency workers who responded, and to the families and loved ones of the deceased. My thoughts and prayers go out to all on a daily basis.

My God Bless you all!

Without further ado I present to you the August/September feature interviews with author, J. Aday Kennedy and illustrator, K.C. Snider, Reflections or Dreams by Joseph "Silly" Sottile, Book Review: Klutzy Kantor by J. Aday Kennedy, and Special Announcements. Don't miss the additional goodies: Dynamic Media Release Service, 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:

[dmcdine@optonline.net](mailto:dmcdine@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 the very best!

Donna

### Quote of the Month:

*"Oh, God, give me grace for this day. Not for a lifetime, nor for next week, nor for tomorrow, just for this day. Direct my thoughts and bless them. Amen."*

**AUTHOR INTERVIEW - J. ADAY KENNEDY**

Jessica and I first met earlier on in our writing careers, well before we became fellow "angels" at Guardian Angel Publishing. Since then I have had the joy watch Jessica's writing career flourish. So happy you are visiting and taking the time out to learn more about this fascinating woman. You will surely become inspired by her words.

**DMc: To date what has been your most valuable marketing tool?**

**JK:** Website's that list unusual holidays & my blog that focuses on marketing lists all of the blogs & websites I use for other ideas.

**DMc: You have created several niches as a writer of inspirational and Christian essays, children's books, and inspirational/motivational/educational speaker. Which inspires you the most and why?**

**JK:** Hmmm? My Christian articles require research and bible study which recharges my batteries for everything else.

**DMc: How do you balance your array of talents and still find the time to be the go to source for Book Marketing Planning and Writing Prompt Creation?**

**JK:** I follow a writing schedule and ignore everything else when the muse strikes. Being on a ventilator and a quadriplegic allows me not to cook, clean & take care of a husband and kids. Between you, me and your readers, I needed a vacation and liked it so much I've never joined "real life."

**DMc: Now onto your new release, *Klutzy Kantor*. What an ingenious character you have created. Please share with us your inspiration behind this lovable character.**

**JK:** My *CRAZY* sister is a complete klutz, intelligent and lovable. She is "Klutzy Kantor". A friend from India shared the impossible riddle. The leprechaun, rainbow, apples and the rest came from my wacky imagination.

**DMc:** What can we expect from you coming down the publishing pipeline?

**JK:** Klutzy Kantor has 2 more books in the series. All of these books are reluctant reader friendly, humorous, have character building themes and teacher guides. "Marta Gargantuan Wings" is the next book to be released. Marta is a Pegasus that looks like a mule with giant wings. I have 8 picture books accepted by Guardian Angel Publishing.

**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. Jessica, can you please share one with us?

**JK:** I'm glad I became a legally blind ventilator-dependent quadriplegic and given the choice I would not change it. If I never had my stroke I would not have begun writing. If my disabilities disappeared my life would be totally different. I never sat still long enough to develop a strong relationship with God. I'm afraid if I was "normal" I might lose sight of the importance He plays in the world and my life.

I do have my "bad" days and weak moments when I wish my life were different, but that's human. I don't think anyone is completely content all of the time. For the most part I'm happy the way things are.

Be sure to visit Jessica at: <http://www.jadaykennedy.com>

**ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW - K.C. SNIDER**

When I was bestowed the honor of becoming an "angel" at Guardian Angel Publishing and reached the stage of studying the portfolios of the GAP illustrators I immediately felt a connection to the artistic abilities of K.C. Snider. Not to say it was an easy task since all the illustrators at GAP are quite talented in their own right. Come along on this awe inspiring interview of the prolific works of K.C. Snider.

**DMc:** K.C., you have quite the accomplished illustrating career. How do you balance your many different projects?

**KC:** Well, my publicist makes me take a 'fine arts' break now and then. We sometimes get inspired to do a particular work to enter into a special show or contest. Usually when I'm working on a book, I work on one at a time. But sometimes two at a time especially if one is particularly complicated and needs a lot of research, doing a fun one interspersed helps to keep my inspiration peaked.

**DMc:** Are you normally hired by the publishing house or author for your illustrating talents?

**KC:** Actually, the first book I illustrated was "The Christmas Angel," for my good friend, Mary Jean Kelso. She had written this story many years ago and couldn't get it published so she thought that if it was illustrated, it might have a better chance at publication. Unbeknownst to me, she sent it to Lynda Burch at Guardian Angel Publishing who did accept it. I was still busy doing my Western fine arts and hadn't really thought about pursuing more illustration jobs, but Lynda liked my work and approached me to illustrate Mayra Calvani's "The Magic Violin." I was thrilled to have another

project for *GAP*. From there, it has just snowballed with *GAP*. I do not accept any other projects at this time except from *GAP*.

**DMc: Please share with us your break through moment of your career.**

**KC:** Keep in mind that I've had a long career in fine arts prior to illustration. So I would say my biggest break through moment involves my fine art. I was in my first large juried show in Aspen, Colorado when I sold my first \$1000 original painting. I had been doing small local shows up until then. Then I started doing lithographs and they sold for as much as my originals did in the beginning.

**DMc: Do you conduct school visits? If yes, how is a typical visit structured?**

**KC:** Yes, I do. Here in Redmond, the fourth grade students write and illustrate a book as part of their regular curriculum. As I got known as an illustrator, I was asked to give demonstrations to various classes. My publicist assists me. We use the flip books and I bring samples of the materials I work with. I show them how I work and then they ask lots and lots of questions. One of the students we spoke with last year won the Angel to Angel writing contest with *GAP*.

**DMc: Do you have a favorite medium or style?**

**KC:** I don't have a favorite medium for my fine arts, but the illustrations are in gouache with some ink. Gouache is an opaque watercolor. My style is generally realism, but I also do cartooning.

**DMc: Please name a couple of your favorite children's illustrators. What intrigues you about them?**

**KC:** No really 'famous' children's illustrators come to mind, but I like Kit Grady, Samantha Bell and Kevin Collier, along with the other *GAP* artists. Kit's work is really cute, Samantha's is quite realistic and Kevin's is nicely cartoonish.

My mentor for illustrating was Norman Rockwell, my all-time favorite.

**DMc: How long does it take for you to illustrate a book?**

**KC:** Generally, a month depending on how often my dog, Pooper Jack, interrupts me. Mayra Calvani's *Frederico, the Mouse Violinist*, took two months. I now have 15 books in publication with GAP, six pending publication and contracts signed for 11 more. I'm quite proud of my accomplishments with GAP.

**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. K.C., can you please share one with us?**

**KC:** Probably one of the most memorable events in my art career was the day that my husband, Fred, put a knife through one of my canvases that I had just sold! Fred was tying the painting to an easel so that it would not blow over. He had a knife to cut the string and the knife slipped. He was absolutely mortified and devastated. So I lost a \$2000 sale. The gallery I was with was not happy. But Fred has been so supportive of me that I really can't complain. He does all my framing, helps pack and unpack at shows and does so much that I couldn't do it without him.

Visit K.C. Snider today at:

<http://www.kcsniderart.com>

<http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com>

<http://andyandthealbinohorse.blogspot.com>

<http://www.cafepress.com/KCSniderart>

<http://blog.kcsniderart.com>

**BOOK REVIEW**

<b>Title:</b>	<i>Klutzy Kantor</i>
<b>Written by:</b>	J. Aday Kennedy
<b>Illustrator:</b>	Jack Foster
<b>Soft cover:</b>	24 pages
<b>Ages:</b>	4-8
<b>Publisher:</b>	Guardian Angel Publishing
<b>ISBN Print:</b>	13:978-1-61633-054-4
<b>ISBN eBook:</b>	13:978-1-61633-052-1
<b>Published:</b>	April 2010
<b>Price:</b>	\$10.95

Klutzy Kantor is a gentle soul until he trips and falls with every step he takes. Many times slamming into un-expecting friends along the way. As time goes by Klutzy Kantor becomes increasingly frustrated by his klutziness. Determined to overcome he seeks out his friend Agra for advice. Agra offers up assistance, but not in the way Klutzy Kantor expects. Instead of physical training a massaging word play ensues to prepare Klutzy Kantor for the battle of wits against Cobbledom. Who is a leprechaun that promises to grant your most desired wish if you can beat him in a duel of wits.

Will Klutzy Kantor's word training achieve the results he strives for or will the clever leprechaun beat him as he has done for the last 321 duels? Come along for Klutzy Kantor's humorous adventure and find out for yourself.

To learn more about author, J. Aday Kennedy visit: <http://jadaykennedy.com>.

To learn more about the colorful world of Jack Foster visit:  
<http://web.me.com/jacktoon/jackfoster.com/home.html>

## REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS

### ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

BY Joseph Sottile

I was worried that Mom would forget to kiss me good-bye.  
I was worried the school bus would pass my stop.  
I was worried I'd get into a fight at the bus stop.  
I was worried I had toothpaste on my cheek.  
I was worried I'd never find my classroom.  
I was worried my lunch money was on the kitchen table.  
I was worried that I'd be late and marked "tardy."  
I was worried I wouldn't know anybody.  
I was worried all the bathrooms would be locked.  
I was worried my teacher wouldn't like me.  
I was worried all my school friends moved away.  
I was worried nobody would like me.  
I was worried nobody would like my new glasses.  
I was worried I wouldn't know the answers.  
I was worried I'd have to take a test.  
I was worried the lunchroom would run out of food.  
I was worried I'd trip on my shoelaces and fall flat on the floor.  
I was worried I'd get into trouble on the playground.  
I was worried I'd go home on the wrong bus.  
I was worried my sitter wasn't home.  
None of my worries came true.

Visit Joseph "Silly" Sottile today at: <http://consideration.org/sottile>

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LORI CALABRESE

In addition to her regular Fish For a Free Book Fridays, Lori Calabrese is offering numerous children's books giveaways for September at Lori Calabrese Writes! (<http://www.loricalabrese.com>). Just become a follower, leave a comment and remember to sign up for her NEW RSS FEED in the upper right hand corner, so you can add it to your Reader and not miss any awesome giveaways, including a copy of *The Golden Pathway*!



## ACCEPTANCES AND NEW POSITION FOR DONNA MCDINE

My historical fiction manuscript, "Powder Monkey or Boy" has been accepted by Guardian Angel Publishing. This will be my third story book with GAP.

A Long Story Short has accepted my short story, "Nikko and Herman," for their December 2010 issue

I was hired as the Publicist Intern position with the National Writing for Children Center effective August 2010.

I will be making the following appearances:

### ON-LINE:

**September 23, 2010 ~ 3 pm EST**

Blog Talk Radio ~ Book Bites for Kids

<http://www.bookbitesforkids.com>

Host: Suzanne Lieurance

### September and October 2010

Virtual Book Tour coordinated by Pump Up Your Book Promotion

Dates and Blogs schedule: <http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com> and

<http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com>

### January and February 2011

Virtual Book Tour

Dates and Blogs to be announced

### IN PERSON:

**September 17, 2010 ~ 1:00-4:00 pm**

Children's Illustrated Art Museum

37 Crestwood Court

Crestwood, MO

<http://www.stlciam.org>

- Book fair, book signings and readings, illustrator demonstrations, and activity stations throughout museum for children

**September 18, 2010 ~ 11:00-1:00 pm**

Borders Bookstore

South County Mall

25 South County Center Way

St. Louis, MO

[http://www.borders.com/online/store/StoreDetailView\\_620](http://www.borders.com/online/store/StoreDetailView_620)

**September 25, 2010 ~ 11:00-1:00 pm**

Harry Bennett Library

115 Vine Road

Stamford, CT

Author's Panel: Publishing with Small Presses - Indie-Debut 2010 authors:

Lori Calabrese, *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade*

Donna McDine, *The Golden Pathway*

Jo Ramsey, *Connection*

Coordinated by: Stacey Moser, SCBWI Writers of Lower Fairfield

<http://lowerfairfieldwriters.blogspot.com>



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 / [dmcldine@optonline.net](mailto:dmcldine@optonline.net) / 845-359-6646

<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>

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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>

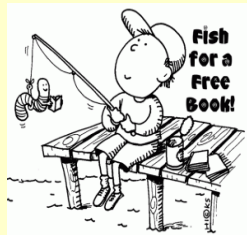
3. Tell your friends about Babysitting SugarPaw and how I have joined forces with First Book in bring children their first book. You can use this announcement or parts of it on our blog, website, or social networks.

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://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>

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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/>

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## 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!*

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## 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 HowToDoItFrugally 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://leaschizaseditor.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://leaschizaseditor.com>

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### 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>*

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\*\*Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber @ <http://www.donnamcdine.com>

\*\*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](mailto:dmcldine@optonline.net) with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed.

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