

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

August-September '11
Volume 3, Issue 12

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



Welcome to the August-September '11 issue

Write What Inspires You!

Happy Fall!

Incredible to think that the summer of 2011 is behind us and we are in full swing of the 2011-12 school year.

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I don't know about you, but it feels like school just ended a few weeks ago probably because like so many families we had a jammed packed summer. My oldest vacationed with a friend's family in the Outer Banks in July while my youngest attended two different basketball camps. And then we headed to the Sagamore Resort in Lake George, New York for our family vacation. And before you knew it July was over and August was at our doorstep. It was a soggy month, so indoor entertaining made for a cramped house at times with the girls friends, but it was all good. Hearing the laughter of teenage girls delights my ears as well as warming my heart they still want to hang at home with their friends.

Quote of the Month:

"It is important to embrace who we are. Today find one quality about yourself that you really love and celebrate the day. Be Joyful. "
~Dyan Garris

I hope you all had a glorious summer and the school year has started off on a good note.

Without further ado I present to you the August/September feature interview with children's author, Connie Arnold, Book Reviews, Reflections or Dreams Column by Joseph Sottile, Guardian Angel Kids Ezine, 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: donna@donnamcdine.com. Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber.

Wishing you all inspiration!

Donna

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - CONNIE ARNOLD

Checking back in from time to time with fellow authors is always a special treat. What better way to get all caught up in the ever changing life of an author, but through interviews? Fellow "Angel" from Guardian Angel Publishing recently took the time out from her busy schedule to share with us her latest updates.

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

CA: I had been writing poetry for several years and decided to do something with the poems in 2006, when I had a large collection of them and had been encouraged by many people who had read some to try to get them published. My first book was published the next year. I also do some work for Lupus Foundation of America and I am a musician, sometimes doing substitute organist jobs.

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

CA: Yes, I have always enjoyed reading. I enjoyed reading a variety of different books. As a child (and, truth be known, still as an adult) among my favorites were books by Dr. Seuss. Many of those great children's books were published during my early years, and my children and now my grandchildren enjoy them as well.

DMc: Tell us a bit about your latest book, and what inspired you to write such a story?

CA: My first children's book is *Animal Sound Mix-up*, published by Guardian Angel Publishing. It is a fun rhyming book about animals and their sounds getting mixed up. So you could have a horse that barked, or a monkey saying moo. I guess the idea began when visiting my young grandchildren and them learning about the sounds animals make, imagining how funny it would be if they got mixed up. Young children around preschool and kindergarten age

really seem to get a kick out of it, especially when my husband joins me at readings and does the wrong animal sounds!

DMc: From the moment you conceived the idea for the story, to the published book, how long did it take?

CA: It didn't take too long to write it, just adding a bit at a time as thoughts came to me, finishing it up within a few weeks. Then came the polishing it up, trying to get the rhythm exactly right. Writing rhyming books for children well is hard work! Once it was accepted by *GAP*, it was assigned to Kit Grady to illustrate. It was well worth the wait when I saw her fantastic illustrations! It was published within nine months - similar to waiting for the birth of a baby!

DMc: Please share with us your latest work-in-progress.

CA: I'm working on another rhyming children's book, which I have rewritten and revised numerous times, trying to get it just right. In addition to that, I have been working on a 2012 calendar featuring some of my verses along with beautiful nature photos.

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. Connie, can you please share one with us?

CA: That's a good question, Donna! One thing I think of, since my anniversary is coming up in a couple of weeks, is the surprise that almost always comes when I tell people I've been married almost 40 years (I was a child bride, of course!). A woman always loves it when she looks younger than she is! Thank you so much for this opportunity to share a bit about Animal Sound Mix-up and myself, Donna.

Connie, it was a pleasure chatting with you and catching back up. Happy Anniversary!

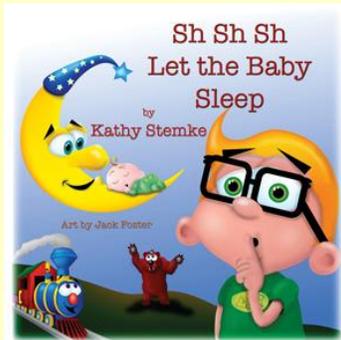
Animal Sound Mix-up purchase links:

Guardian Angel Publishing <http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com/mix-up.htm>

My website - <http://www.conniearnold.webs.com/>

My blog - <http://childrensauthorconniearnold.blogspot.com/>

BOOK REVIEWS



[Click here or on the book cover to access the Amazon link](#)

Title: *Sh Sh Sh Let the Baby Sleep*
Written by: Kathy Stemke
Illustrated by: Jack Foster
Soft cover: 22 pages
Ages: 3-7
Publisher: Guardian Angel Publishing, Inc.
Print ISBN 13: 978-1-61633-156-6
eBook ISBN 13: 978-1-61633-157-7
Published: May 2011
Print Price: \$10.95
eBook Price: \$5.00

Zachary's time was no longer his own with his new found big brother responsibilities. Beyond his normal chores he is now expected to help all the time. To make it fun Zachary turns into a superhero when he wears his special black-framed glasses. The most difficult task at hand was to keep Layla sleeping during nap time. But how can one young boy accomplish this when there are many outside forces threatening Layla's slumber?

Have no fear, superhero Zachary is here to save the day from strong breezes, chirping birds, train whistles, and a grizzly bear who means no harm. Through Ms. Stemke's expert rhyme and consonant blends storytelling

Zachary learns what family is all about and what it truly takes to be a good big brother.

Children's author, Kathy Stemke spins an adventurous imagination of big brother responsibilities into a delightful tale accompanied with a comprehensive teacher's learning guide making for a winning combination of a must have book for libraries and classrooms around the globe.

Jack Foster's brilliant illustrations soar from the pages into your child's imagination making reading a pure delight.

Learn more about Kathy Stemke's illustrious career at <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com>.

Become mesmerized in Jack Foster's colorful world at <http://jacktoon.blogspot.com>.



[Click here or on the book cover to access the Amazon link](#)

Title:	<i>Walking Through Walls</i>
Author:	Karen Cioffi
Illustrator:	Aidana Willow Raven
Genre:	MG/Tween/YA
ISBN:	978-0-9826594-7-2
Publication Date:	July 2011
Pages:	61
Price:	\$14.99 paperback
Publisher:	4RV Publishing

With each turn of the page pass through time to 16th Century ancient China where the legend of the Eternals mesmerizes twelve-year-old Wang. Determined not to live a poor farmer's life like his father, Wang dreams of becoming rich and powerful and adamantly believes the Eternals are his answer. Unable to accept his poor man's destiny, Wang declares he is leaving his family to journey to the Eternals home in the Loa Mountains.

Upon his arrival, Wang begins his apprenticeship with the Master Eternal, who believes that Wang's personality will not allow him to succeed in his quest. Ignoring the Master Eternal's insight into Wang's often lazy personality Wang begins his apprenticeship. From the onset Wang is frustrated and annoyed by the slow apprenticeship process and threatens to quit several times. After the conclusion of the first year Wang does indeed quit, but has one last request of the Master Eternal; "teach me how to walk through walls." The Master Eternal reluctantly teaches Wang this technique with a stern warning not to use this ability for evil.

Yet again, ignoring the Master Eternal's advice, Wang eagerly begins his long journey home with visions how he can steal from the rich without them knowing, subsequently making himself rich with other's fortunes. Exactly what the Master Eternal directed him not to do.

Unbeknownst to Wang the most difficult apprenticeship training continues during his travels home and upon his arrival. Will Wang discover the road to true happiness or will he succumb to the dark side? Learn all about Wang's true destiny in Karen Cioffi's fantasy Chinese tale and become immersed in 16th Century China.

About the author: Karen Cioffi is a published author, ghostwriter, and freelance writer. She is the founder and manager of Writers on the Move (a marketing group of authors utilizing cross-promotion and a number of promotional strategies); moderator of a children's critique group; on the team at DKV Writing 4 U (offers professional and affordable writing services); and an acquisitions editor intern. Cioffi is a member of The International Association of Professional Ghostwriters, Professional Writers Alliance, and The National Association of Independent Writers and Editors. Visit Karen at: <http://www.karencioffiwritingandmarketing.com/p/karens-books.html>.

Walking Through Walls is available directly from 4RV Publishing
<http://www.4rvpublishingllc.com>.

REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS



Kids Building Literature! By Joseph Sottile

"The two factors most responsible for giving a child the belief that he or she can make a significant contribution to life are parents/teachers and literature." Bruno Bettelheim

Children's poet, Joe Sottile (www.joe-sottile.com) combined forces with Debra Ross, creator and editor of <http://rochester.kidsoutandabout.com> to encourage young poets to come out of the woodwork and share their poetry. In other words, they gave some boys and girls a chance to "build" some literature image by image. Debra Ross produces a weekly newsletter about upcoming event and activities in the Rochester area, plus offering a litany of freebies for readers.

Debra and Joe came up with the idea of a poetry contest that offered an award of a \$50 Amazon.com gift card for the best poem based on one of the sixty most interesting places in the Rochester area. The four top poems were about Corbett's Glen, Wickham Farms, Rochester Museum and Science Center, and the Rochester Auditorium Theatre.

After watching Debra Ross's inspiring three-minute video "Build Myself in Rochester, NY," they created a poem for "Build Myself a Winning Poem in Rochester, NY." Many quality poems were entered into the contest. Poems were featured in Debra's family newsletter at:

<http://rochester.kidsoutandabout.com>, and on Joe's blog, <http://poetryinsider.blogspot.com/2011/08/and-winner-is.html> .

Joe and Debra have at least two things in common: they both love poetry and kids involved in the creative process, especially during the summer. And they were happy to see so many kids building superb poems in Rochester, New York, while making a significant contribution to literature.

For a three-minute treat, view the inspiring Rochester video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm4iXckj9lQ>



Guardian Angel Kids Ezine for children expands the publisher's mission to provide safe, healthy entertainment for ages 2 to 12. It features games and activities from Guardian Angel books and characters. The 2012 themes and submissions guidelines are now available.

Visit today for submission guidelines <http://www.guardian-angel-kids.com/submissions.htm>



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 Publicist experience at the CWCC and as former Marketing Manager 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.

Testimonials:

"If you are too busy to write and distribute a press release about your book, or simply aren't sure how to go about it, I can whole-heartedly recommend Donna McDine's publicity service. She writes excellent press releases. Best of all, she's fast! Two days after Donna posted the Slippery Art of Book Reviewing media release it went higher in the ranks on Amazon from the 200,000s to the 14,000s!"

~ Mayra Calvani - <http://www.MayraCalvani.com>

"I've worked with Donna in more than one capacity over the past few years. Most recently, I hired her as a PR Intern for the National Writing for Children Center and the Children's

Writers' Coaching Club. Donna has done excellent work in this regard. She's one of the most organized people I know and she works well without having to be told every little thing to do. She's a pleasure to work with and she's very creative when it comes to PR. I highly recommend Donna to anyone looking for a PR person or a VA."

~ Suzanne Lieurance - www.suzannelieurance.com

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

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

NEWSLETTERS

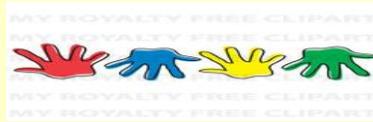


Looking for the latest children's literature news? Don't have time to scour all of the blogs out there (and we know there are a ton!), but would like to be pointed in the direction of some of the best articles and gossip?

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 Lori at <http://loricalabrese.blogspot.com/p/fish-for-free-book.html> and subscribe at the top right sidebar. Then we'll be buzzing about children's books in the latest 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.



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

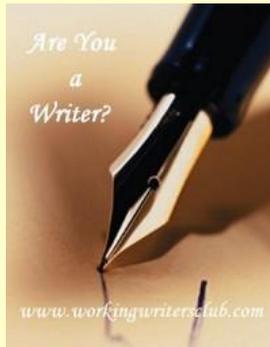
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Award-winning author of the HowToDoItFrugally Series of Books for writers, including USA Book News' award winners

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



The Working Writer's Club is a professional club for freelance writers, authors, coaches, and speakers providing training, resources, and networking opportunities for its members. Visit www.workingwritersclub.com and learn what all the excitement is about.



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