

The Write Stuff

Long Island Writer's Guild Newsletter

Number Two

Spring Issue

Word From The Editor

Y2K has come and gone. The world did not end, my computer didn't crash, God's in His Heaven and all's right with the world.

The bathtub I filled with water came in handy for my first bath of the millenium. The untold gallons of bottled water is being shared equally between my dog and household plants.

The rest of the stuff stored neatly in my garage will appear on my driveway the first garage sale in the spring.

To be perfectly honest, none of the above is true. Alas, being the procrastinator that I am, I waited until the Ball dropped and hoped for the best.

This is a new century and the ideal time to make some new resolutions, related to writing, of course. Here are a few that I have imposed upon myself:

- (1) Finish that damn novel I started in 1960.
- (2) Write every day, even if it's only a grocery list.
- (3) Submit, submit, and submit.
- (4) Empty the rejection bin.
- (5) Brush my teeth and floss.

The rest I've already broken, dismissed or discarded.

JM Pantatello

Y2K PARTY A BLAST

We have to thank Lois and Ron Rothchild, of Bethpage, for hosting this gala event. I must say that it drew some of the old members out of the woodwork, and we were glad to see them. I hope they can find time in their busy life to frequent our meetings from time to time. We miss them and their creative work.

There were plenty of goodies to eat; every thing looked and tasted great, in fact I may have Ron cater my next family reunion.

But as always, the bright spot to all these gatherings is the reading of our stories. And there was a bunch of good stuff. I just have to mention Susan Green's piece, it was truly great. I think we all agree.

And talking about get-togethers, Joan Marg has invited us to her humble abode on Sat. Feb.26th around 7PM. Her address is 170 Harbor South, Amityville, The Snug Harbor Condos off Merrick Rd. (I hope I have that right, Joan) Call Joan at 691-0212 for more details. See Ya there.

THE WRITE STUFF

THE POET'S PAGE

“WHEN YOU THINK IT'S SPRING”

One morning upon getting up
From my bed
I pulled up the window shades.
To my surprise
Before my very eyes
I gazed upon brilliant
Snow-capped crystals
On tree branches
Looking like puffs of
Marshmallows adorning our backyard.

I listened to my dog barking
And saw him chasing squirrels
Playing and rolling in the snow.
The sight gave me a burst of energy
To share with him the joy of Winter
What I really wanted was the
Sight of Spring.

Grace Germann
Feb.4, 2000

THE WRITE STUFF

“ the secret of good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components.”
On Writing Well by Wm. Zinsser

THINGS NOT TO SAY TO A WRITER

- 1-As long as you're doing nothing, would you throw out the garbage.
- 2-Honey, I think I shredded those scraps of paper.
- 3-Is it finished yet?
- 4-Another rejection slip, you poor baby.
- 5-Are you published?
- 6-(Fill your own)

“No! Not another rejection slip?”

THE WRITE STUFF

Editor:
JM Pantatello
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Levittown, NY 11756

YOUR REPORTER ON THE ROAD

Well, I guess you missed it. I didn't see anyone from The Long Island Writers Guild at the Hicksville library, Tuesday, Feb. 1st, at 1:00 PM. You would have had a chance to listen to and talk with Nelson DeMille, # 1 best selling author of “Plum Island” discuss his new novel “The Lion's Game”.

The library was packed to overflowing. Mr. DeMille was charming, informative and answered a host of questions from an adoring crowd lugging copies of his latest book for him to sign. When I say lugging, I mean heavy, he said it was the longest book he wrote. It took him two years to write. (Big deal I've been writing mine for six years, and it's not finished yet)(PS: I'm only kidding) Some of the questions came from aspiring writers, like myself, and the answers were a lot like the one you hear from other famous and successful authors. You start by writing the short stuff for the small press and pulp magazines. **Then you get lucky.** You get an agent, an editor, and a movie deal and you're in. They make it sound so easy. DeMille's latest book to film is “The General's daughter”, with John Travolta and the studios have asked him to write a sequel.

You heard it here first Folks.

1789-First American novel, W.H. Brown's “Power of Sympathy” published.

THE WRITE STUFF

HERE AND THERE

SAD NEWS INDEED

Those of us that read and write short fiction are a little sadder today. STORY magazine which was relaunched ten years ago has decided to suspend publication. Their last issue was the Winter 2000. I will personally miss the magazine because it was good reading. It let you know the editors were accepting at the moment. It was a publication you could submit your manuscripts to and receive quick and sometimes heartening responses. STORY was a writer's magazine.

I quote in part from STORY editor, Lois Rosenthal's closing notes:

"I am grateful to the writers who have shared their words with me, who have enriched my life with their fiction and their friendship. I am indebted to our readers who have become family.

Please think of our STORY decade as a meteor, a phenomenon that occurs in the atmosphere as lightning or a rainbow. Imagine a tiny particle falling from the solar system toward earth that can cause such friction it becomes temporarily incandescent. Remember STORY as a streak of light.

It will always be that way for me."

-Lois Rosenthal

WORDS of WIZDOM FROM UNCLE NUNZI

YOU CAN'T TELL A BOOK BY ITS COVER—But a nice jacket helps.
CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN—If you spend enough money.
A FRIEND INDEED—Is the one with the cash.
YOU KNOW WHEN YOU REACHED OLD AGE—When your son gets a letter from AARP.

More to come folks, stay tuned.

Courtesy Benedict P. Panzarella

NOTE:

"Date with the Future"

(Collection: *An Evening of One Acts*)
by Linda Delmonico-Prussen
Will be produced Mar. 2,3,4,8,9,10,11
At **Expanded Arts Theater**
85 Ludlow St.,Manhattan, NY
Time-7:PM Cost-\$12

Reservations Call-1-212-253-1813

MEETING SCHEDULE

March	9	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
March	16	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30
April	?	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
April	20	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30

Future meetings will be posted when we have the information.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

www.novalearn.com

THE WRITE STUFF

REJECTION of THE MONTH

Please share your experiences good or bad. Tell us about the piece you submitted and the response. Was it a form letter, a critique, an acceptance? Tell us. Don't forget to send them in, I shouldn't have to take up all this space by myself.

Your Editor received a nice response from Strictly Romance Magazine out in Ohio, for "The Illusionist", the story about the granddaughter who stands in for her ailing grandma when she meets her old flame. Remember that one?

They liked the story-couldn't use-told me to work on the fantasy, that was where the story was and to try again.

(Gives you that warm feeling all over)

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

John Sandford

If you like fast paced exciting reading with never to forget characters, catch his "Prey" novels. Hard to put down page-turners with a little sex to keep you off balance and socko endings. Master of the metaphor. Grab "Sudden Prey" at the library and enjoy.

NEW CONTEST

TOP 10 WORST LIST CONTEST

"Worst things you do to avoid writing for at least 10 minutes a day"

RULES:

Submit at least one (1) suggestion per person. If you're really hot give me five (5).

Our panel of judges will select the best 10 (yeah, right)

Submit suggestions at our regular meetings or mail to editor's address noted somewhere in this newsletter.

PRIZES:

You're kidding, right?

A free copy of THE WRITE STUFF.

DEADLINE:

Any time before the next issue. (Don't ask, I don't know.)

THE WRITE STUFF

Editor:

Joseph Pantatello

20 Orchid Rd.

Levittown, NY 11756

The Editor is open to suggestions and a little help.

THE WRITE STUFF

VALENTINE'S DAY

Lost in a Hallmark sea of cards
I wander through the store
Besieged by thoughts of long ago
Red hearts, cupids, bits of lace
Sentimental rhymes
They came with a box of chocolates
That Dad brought home to Mom

Fashions have changed
Lace and ribbons no more.
I buy a box of chocolates
And tucked inside the bag
Is one special card,
Just a heart, red and blue
Inside it says
You've touched my heart
You've touched my life

I love you
Happy Valentine's Day

Joan Marg-Feb. 14, 2000