

The Write Stuff

Long Island Writer's Guild Newsletter

Number One

Winter Issue

Word From The Editor

Enter New Contest Inside!

Welcome to the premiere issue of The Write Stuff.

I should be good at this, after all I was the editor of my High School year book and co-editor of our newspaper.

What I learned early on was *delegation*. I delegated everything except my name on the masthead and list of credits. The net results, we published a great yearbook and an interesting newspaper. I did very little. I delegated.

So be on notice the art of delegation here is nil. This is an enterprise of one + contributors and I would like to come out with another issue. I could use some editorial input birthdays, weddings, new members, some news on published pieces, etc. If we have a cartoonist in the group, feel free to grace our pages with a goody.

This issue may not be ready for the holidays therefore; the Editor and staff want to wish you all a

Good Thanksgiving
Merry Christmas
Happy Chanukah
and a Joyous New Century

JM Pantatello

Making It Big On The Little Screen

Longtime member, Linda Prussen appeared recently on channel 80, the Public Access TV station. She was interviewed on the Innersight Program and like all famous writers was promoting her new book, "Eric & Me".

During the interview, I learned a lot about Linda. The struggle and pain and for just a brief time the joy of her son Eric. His constant care and attention and special medical equipment raised many questions from her daughter Heather. The answers to those questions were the keystone of her book. The book is illustrated to resemble a child's coloring book and is used to help both parents and siblings in severe health drama situations.

The book has been well received, copies have been distributed to Nassau Medical Center and physical therapists have requested copies.

Linda is a playwright, writes a column for the Merrick Herald, is a gymnastics instructor in Bellmore and shows up from time to time at meetings to tickle our ears with her prose.

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THE WRITE STUFF

THE POET'S PAGE

The promise of summer is gone.
Long sunlit days where 8 p.m. is still daytime,
and the sand and ocean make me feel summer will go on forever
are over.
My garden blooms have turned pale,
tree tops already show gold and orange leaves,
I smell the chill of the changing season,
and already sense the snowflakes coming.

I miss what was
and look forward to what will be.
Leaves crunching underfoot,
dragging grandchildren on their sleds,
snowfights, firesides and popcorn.
The paraphernalia of the season,
mittens, boots and shovels,
shopping for gifts,
decorating the tree.

By January's end, I'll long for Spring.
But for now,
I'll mourn summer,
walk beneath the trees marveling at the reds, greens, yellows and oranges above me,
and wait like a child for winter's first snow flake.

Joan Ann Marg
October 22, 1999

NOTE: Editor is eager to accept short poems to print on this page. (It's called delegation)

THE WRITE STUFF

Praise for THE WRITE STUFF:
“I ran out of toilet tissue, thank
God for the WRITE STUFF”
...a faithful reader in Queens.

TOP 10 WORST LIST

What you **don't** want to hear Critiquing.

- 10-My ears are burning...P.G.
- 9-You forgot to turn on Spell Check.
- 8-You left your participle hanging.
- 7-I'm sorry, was I sleeping?
- 6-You can use your manuscript as a fly swatter or the bottom of a birdcage.
- 5-Don't quit your day job.
- 4-Plot, plot...Plop, plop.
- 3-14 adjectives in one sentence, a bit much.
- 2-You read that last year. It didn't better with age.
- 1-(Fill in the blank)

From the “Respiratory Health Monitor”
I picked up at my doctor's office.

Question: A friend told me that if I take up writing, it might help my asthma. What does writing have to do with asthma?

Answer: It depends on what you write about. Your friend probably heard about an interesting experiment on this unusual association. People with asthma who wrote for 20 minutes on 3 days running about “the most stressful event they had ever undergone” showed significant improvements in their lung function 4 months later. A control group who wrote about neutral topics didn't show this benefit.

It is not clear why people improved after writing about personal traumatic experiences. Neither is it clear how long the improvement might last. What is clear however, is that there's a powerful link between mind and body. And writing about stressful experiences may work somewhat the way psychotherapy works.>

(I think there's a lesson to be learned here, but I haven't got a clue.) jp

Recipe For Delicious Writing

- 3-Sheets 20# White Paper
 - 2-No 2 Dixon Pencils, sharpened
 - ½ Doz. Startling Story Ideas
 - Add- Spice to Taste
 - 1-Flat surface well lighted
 - 1-10 Minute Timer
 - Combine all ingredients well
 - Share your WORD cookies with all.
- JM Pantatello

THE WRITE STUFF

HERE AND THERE

A suggestion was made at our last meeting that the Workshop should contribute some of the funds to help pay the cost of publishing the upcoming Journal. Makes a lot of sense; why should Peter have to carry the entire burden and shell out all that dough.

We could charge an appropriate fee or a donation for the Journal. We all want a copy or two.

Let's talk about it at our next meeting. Those Journals cost a great deal to print up.

I understand there are grants available for such projects. If anyone has or can find information about this, please let us know.

I would like to mail a copy of the newsletter to members that have not been attending meetings of late. Perhaps too busy or Thursday is an inconvenient day or maybe they lost the desire to write... whatever, this newsletter might ignite the spark again.

If you know anyone in that category get their names and address to me and I'll mail them a copy. While you're at it you might just give them a call tell them the nights we meet and where. We could fill some empty chairs.

MEETING SCHEDULE

November	4	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
November	18	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30
December	2	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
December	16	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30

Future meetings will be posted when we have the information.

WORDS of WIZDOM FROM UNCLE NUNZI

ADVICE IS CHEAP—and usually not worth a damn.

ANYTHING WORTH DOING—has already been done by someone else.

ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GO—Yonder.

IF YOU LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP—you'll never jump.

IF THERE IS SNOW ON THE ROOF—it means the furnace is not working.

More to come folks, stay tuned.

Courtesy Benedict P. Panzarella

NOTE:

Catch Ben doing his stuff at Hofstra University Dec. 2nd at 8:00 PM, in the Axinn Hall.

He will be reading poetry in association with photographs of Sicily for the Italian American Experience. Molto bene Ben.

We will miss you at our regular meeting Dec. 2.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

www.grammarlady.com
www.creativescreenwriting.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:

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The Editor is open to suggestions and a little help.

THE WRITE STUFF