

# Penwheels Newsletter

**In Memoriam**

**Verna Oxford**

1922-2015

*For Escapees Writers, Published or Not!*



**Fall 2015**



*Tips  
From  
Jaimie*

**By Jaimie Hall Bruzenak**

Penwheelers: are you thinking of writing a book and self publishing? Read this! "[My Publisher Wants All Rights to My Edited Manuscript ... that I'll be paying them to edit.](#)" You **must** have someone edit your book and I hope a professional or it will scream self-published.

Here are some good ideas for writing and sharing your memoirs with your family from [Writers Weekly](#).

Though the reviews are mixed, this might be a fun read for those who love words and language: [The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got that Way](#) by Bill Bryson. Available on Kindle and in other formats.

Looking to break into writing for magazines? This article in Writers Weekly (6/18/15) has some good suggestions: "[Lesser Known Magazines Provide Less Competition for Writers!](#)"

Looking for ways to make money with your writing?

Here are "Eight More Ways to Market your Imagination!" by Donna Kordela. #1 is Consulting fees and ghostwriting services. Read the [rest of that tip here](#).

"[Great Writing Gig Or A Scam? 10 Red Flags!](#)" By Melissa Rudy in Writer's Weekly eZine gives you ways to identify a scam if you are looking for paying freelance writing assignments.

Some are common sense or apply to other things on the Internet. It may keep you from making a costly mistake by getting paid an unfair amount for your work.



Escapees members are always encouraged to submit articles and photos for publication in Escapees magazine. Well-researched technical articles are always in high demand.

Send your article by e-mail to: [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com).

Download photo guidelines for more details about cover photos.

Queries should be sent to: [graphics@escapees.com](mailto:graphics@escapees.com).



## *In This Issue*

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**In Memoriam: Verna Oxford**



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*Penwheels* is a private group of Escapees members who enjoy writing and discussing the writing adventure. The Penwheels is a free digital newsletter published quarterly to all members via e-mail and online.



## *Braggin' Rights*

**By Joanne Alexakis**

**Escapees July/August 2015 magazine:**

**"Grand Marais, Minnesota, the U.S. Scandinavian Riviera,"** is about a thriving town on the shores of Lake Superior in Joanne Alexakis' beloved home state - page 26. ~Joanne Alexakis SKP#19367

Betty Prange SKP#22195 takes us on a ride on the Nevada Northern Railway stationed at US 95 & US 50, **"America's Loneliest Highway,"** in SKP Stops - page 80.

Betty Mulcahy SKP#76334 reminds us that **"It's Never Too Late,"** applauding a single lady RVer in her mid-70s just beginning her RV traveling journeys in Different Viewpoints - page 22.



## *Book Review*

**By Lynne Benjamin**

Just finished reading an E-Pub edition of "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. A great read and the final section includes an interview with her that I found exceedingly interesting.

She talks about how she moved her writing from non-fiction (memoirs) to fiction (novels), how long it took her to accomplish this and the process she went through.

I found it interesting, as the first book I wrote "Jacob's Tails . . . (Back-to-the-Land)" is what I call creative non-fiction; but I have never got my head around writing a novel although it would be a nice thing to do.

She talks about pulling characters; parts of characters; experiences from her own life; and the research she did to bring the story(ies) together for the novel.

Good insight for anyone contemplating a plunge in writing fiction when they have been submerged in non-fiction writing. Interesting!!!



## *Show & Tell*

**By Ellen Behrens**

"Show don't tell" is standard writing advice. Unfortunately, it's bad advice

because it's not really a choice: you should do **both**. Every short story and novel uses scenes and narration – both of which include an intricate mix of showing and telling.

Scenes immerse readers in the story. Dialogue and action create a "suspension of disbelief": readers no longer realize they're reading words but are plunged into a sort of dream state. It's a miraculous transformation, when you think about it!

Great scenes summon all senses and focus on key points of the plot so readers always feel a part of what's happening. Think of your favorite scenes in movies and TV shows: the most important action is right there for you to experience, not off-stage. Those are the places in your story when you need to develop scenes.

Though scenes take up more space, page-wise, they take less time to read than blocks of narration. That means the pace of the story moves more quickly with scenes than with narration.

So why do we need narration if it risks slowing everything down? Sometimes you need to ease the pace. Narration does that.

More importantly, you can explain things and develop characters with narration.

Remember this opening?

*You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly.*

The entire first chapter of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is narration. Huck describes his life since the end of Tom Sawyer, including how unbearable his current situation is. And it's in Huck's own unique voice.

If Twain had plunged us into some action, we wouldn't have had the background to understand Huck's state of mind. We need this narrative.

More than that, Twain **shows** us Huck instead of just **telling** us who Huck is. If he'd chosen to "tell" instead of "show," the opening might have read this way: "Mark Twain's book, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, was mostly true. Tom and I found money and got rich, but I still had to stay with the Widow Johnson. I was miserable." What a difference!

The opening lines of Huck's story demonstrates how "telling" can also be "showing" and vice-versa – an example of a well-crafted narrative voice. What about this "narrative voice"? More on that next time!

Have a question or dilemma about something you're working on? An idea for a topic? E-mail me at [ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com) or – better yet! – post it on the Penwheels forum ([Rvillage.com](http://Rvillage.com)) so we can all benefit from learning from each other.

### *Literary or Genre?*

Awhile back, someone posted a question that comes up every now and then among beginning writers: what's the difference between a "literary" novel and a "genre" novel?

Of course we could say that genre novels are easily categorized: horror, romance, mystery, western... Even cross-categories can be labeled: paranormal romance, for example. The category is the genre. If you write mysteries, you're a genre writer. You can argue it if you want, but there it is.

But here's the confusing thing: genre novels can also be literary novels. All good novels have a hint (at least) of mystery to them or contain enough drama to nudge it into thriller territory, otherwise nothing would compel the reader to finish the book. Will Ahab ever find *Moby Dick*? And if he does, what happens then? Is pursuing the great white whale worth putting his crew and ship at risk? We keep reading to find out.

Many of us like to say that literary novels are more concerned with the characters than the plot, but many of the best genre novels have characters as carefully drawn as the plot is planned, so well-drawn characters aren't the only thing that distinguishes literary and genre fiction.

Then what makes a novel a literary novel, and why are others left squarely in the genre pile?

*[Ellen Behrens' newest novel, [Pea Body](#), features Walt and Betty Rollin, full-time RVers who solve mysteries as they travel the country. She is former fiction editor of Mid-American Review and the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship. She and her husband have been living the "full-timer" RV lifestyle since 2009. Learn more about her books at [www.ellenbooks.wordpress.com/](http://www.ellenbooks.wordpress.com/)*

## FROM THE EDITOR

### The *Critique Desk*



Shall we get interactive?

Send me:

- \* a short story (800 words or less)
- \* Four paragraphs that seem troublesome to you
- \* ....

In the Winter (December) issue, all of these entries are published (with your permission).

Send comments, critiques, summaries to [Margo @ TheMaxwellGroup.net](mailto:Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net).

A special newsletter will be published in February posting the entries and critiques.

If you want to volunteer to help edit a member's work, send me the eMail address to publish and any

background information that enhances the "editor" in you.

Members could send you one chapter at a time with a time-frame for the turn-around.





# Self-Editing Tips

Self-editing those pesky errors you already know you make turns any article into a professional piece.

## Omitted and Superfluous Words

Writers often use words that are unnecessary to the meaning of the sentence.

**"He sat down."** Unless he was climbing up on a stool higher than his butt, down would have been the direction he went. He sat.

**"Mary was just going to the store."** If your intent was to limit the destination to a single place, you do not need the word "just." You would likely say, "Mary was going to the store and then to the movie."

**Homonym errors** (there, their, they're) are not caught by the spellchecker if you spell the homonym correctly. They need to be checked manually.

## Filter Words

My guess is that a lot of writers are not aware of how "filter" words affect their writing. These are words that unnecessarily filter the readers experience through a character's point of view. Filter words are usually variations of these verbs: to see, to think, to sound (or sound like), to wonder, to realize, to feel (or feel like), and many more.

See writer and blogger Suzannah Windsor Freeman's excellent tutorial on filter words at [Write it Sideways: Writing Advice From a Fresh Perspective](#).

Her examples clearly demonstrate how filter words can be a problem.

## Starting consecutive sentences and/or paragraphs with the same word

### Repetition of an uncommon word

"I really liked Steven's umber eyes" followed three paragraphs later by "The spaceship was the color of burnt umber..."

Read the [rest of the story by Sharon Miller](#).

Download proofreaders marks:

[Penwheels.MovingOnWithMargo.com](#)



# Proofreading

## 7 Steps to Success

### 1. Use a Checklist

Create a list of important things to check for, such as problem areas like agreement of nouns and verbs and of pronouns and antecedents, and number style.

### 2. Fact-Check

Double-check facts, figures, and proper names. If information remains to be inserted at the last minute, highlight the omission prominently so that no one forgets to do so.

### 3. Spell-Check

Before proofreading a printout, spell-check the electronic version to find misspellings, as well as errors you or a colleague make frequently, such as omitting a closing parenthesis or quotation mark.

### 4. Read Aloud

Reading text during the proof stage improves your chances of noticing errors, especially missing or repeated words.

### 5. Focus on One Line at a Time

When proofing print documents, use another piece of paper or a ruler to cover the text following the line you are proofreading, shifting the paper down as you go along. This technique helps you keep your place and discourages you from reading too quickly and missing subtle errors.

### 6. Attend to Format

Proofreading isn't just about reviewing the text. Make sure that the document design adheres to established specifications. Check page numbering, column alignment, relative fonts, sizes, and other features of standard elements such as headlines, subheadings, captions, and footnotes. Inspect each type of feature within categories, such as looking at every headline, then every caption, and so on.

### 7. Proof Again

Once revisions have been made, proofread the document again with the same thoroughness, rather than simply spot-checking the changes. An insertion or deletion may change the overall format.

## Seeking an Editor?

The Editorial Freelancers Association maintains a list of editors. (<http://the-efa.org/dir/search.php>)

EFA is a national not-for-profit organization, headquartered in New York City, run almost entirely by volunteers. Its members, experienced in a wide range of professional skills, live and work in the United States and a variety of other countries, including Canada, England, France, India, Ireland, Israel, and Japan.

## Help for Beginning Writers

The Chicago Manual of Style is now Online:

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

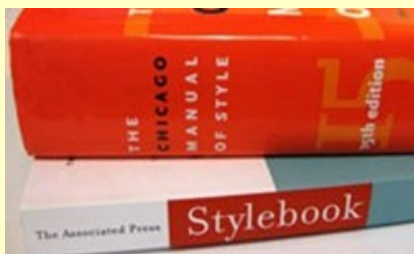
For the writers just starting out (and experienced writers) that are uncertain about the proper usage and sentence structure, this site can be your savior.

The Chicago Manual of Style Online includes the popular Chicago Style Q&A, a resource that thousands have found entertaining and informative. The Q&A content is fully searchable along with the content of The Chicago Manual of Style.

The Chicago Style Q&A also features monthly polls and interviews of interest.

The Chicago Manual of Style Online is available to individuals for a prepaid annual subscription of \$35.00. Two-year subscriptions are also available for a discounted rate of \$60.00, or \$30.00 per year.

All subscriptions include access to the full contents of the 15th and 16th editions. **Free 30-day trial.**



## Learn About Fonts

If you write for the web, this [infographic](#) makes the world of typefaces come alive.

Fonts make the publishing world go round, but there's more to a font than just characters on a screen.

Fonts used for the web differ from ones designed for print (but we already know that). This graphic also explains the difference between serif and sans serif, and how most people have been mistakenly using the word "font" when writing online about "typefaces."

The use of typefaces (fonts) in eBooks is largely left up to what the major eBook platforms support, and many have developed their own typefaces. Google has Literata (also Roboto), Amazon has Bookerly, and Kobo has a typeface called Nickel.

This infographic should help you understand why they went through the effort and invested so much money in developing unique sets of the same 26 characters.

See the infographic [HERE](#).



## What is a Short Story - Part 2

### Writing Exercise

A short story:

- has a narrator; that is, someone tells the story;
- has at least one character in them;
- has some action occur (or perhaps fails to occur);
- take place somewhere; that is, there is a setting for the action;
- someone either learns something or fails to learn something (theme).

With these five characteristics in mind, we can create an almost endless supply of exercises to help sharpen our techniques of story telling.

### Writing Exercise (continued)

**Note:** It is quite common for writers in the early stages of their careers to imitate the writers they are reading or admire most. Often we are not even aware that we are doing this when we write.

Locate a relatively long descriptive passage in a short story or novel that you enjoy, and write a blatant imitation. Follow the sentence structure and syntax word for word. Do this exercise for as many different writers as you can. You should write at least 250 words each time you do this exercise.

Use a text like Best American Short Stories, containing about 20 stories from as many writers, and write imitations of the first page of each short story in the text.

Write a complete short story in imitation of your favorite writer from each major historical period for the past three centuries.

**Note:** you can change the subject matter, sex of the main character, and other such details and still write an imitation.

## *Learn the Rules of Capitalization*

The definition of capitalization is fairly simple. It's the practice of making certain letters uppercase, or capitalized, when needed. Knowing when to use proper capitalization isn't as simple, especially for non-native English writers.

When it comes to capitalization, it is important to use the correct case because it lends to your credibility as a writer. If an article contains excessive capitalized words in unnecessary situations, it will send a message of inexperience to the reader.

If a brand or proper name isn't capitalized, it could send a message of disregard for the lack of attention to detail. Bottom line, it is essential to use the correct case!

Read the rest of the story [HERE](#).

## *Spell Out State Names*

We are writing for an international audience now. Even the Associated Press updated their styles to spell out the complete name of states instead of using the short abbreviations.

The Associated Press now spells out state names in the body of stories. Datelines continue to use abbreviations. Previously, most state names were abbreviated in stories. The change is being made to be consistent in AP's style for domestic and international stories.

International stories already spell out state names in the body of stories.

State abbreviations continue to be used in lists, agate, tabular material, non-publishable editor's notes and credit lines. They are also used in short-form identification of political party affiliation. Photo captions continue to use abbreviations.

~ Jaimie Hall Bruzenak

## *Sharpen Writing Skills*

Need an excuse to watch TV? This writer feels watching TV has made her a better writer. In "How To Sharpen Your Writing Skills By Watching TV" Wendy Hobday Haugh explains how it has given her ideas, helped her sharpen dialog and improve weak characters. [Read more...](#)

~Jaimie Hall Bruzenak

## *Signs of Lazy Article Writing*

[Listen to a podcast](#) of "10 Signs of Lazy Article Writing" with Carol Tice of the **Make a Living Writing** blog, and Linda Formichelli of **The Renegade Writer** as interviewed by Sophie Lizard.

~Jaimie Hall Bruzenak



FROM THE PUBLISHING WORLD

## THE WORLD OF PUBLISHING

Shining a bright light into the dark corners of the shadow-world of literary scams, schemes, and pitfalls, [Victoria Strauss](#) updates her blog frequently.

She also provides advice for writers, industry news and commentary, and a focus on the weird and wacky things that happen at the fringes of the publishing world.

Writer Beware is sponsored by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, with additional support from the Mystery Writers of America, the Horror Writers Association, and the American Society of Journalists and Authors.

Here are a few interesting articles:

### *Awards Profiteers: How Writers Can Recognize and Avoid Them*

By Victoria Strauss for **Writer Beware**

If you've been reading this blog for any length of time, you may have guessed that I'm not a big fan of writing contests and awards.

Partly this is because so many are a waste of time, with minimal prizes, negligible prestige, and zero cachet on your writing resume. Why not spend your energy on something that can get you closer to building a readership--submitting for publication, or publishing on your own?

There's also the risk of bad things in the entry guidelines--for instance, the Emerging Writer Awards, where simply submitting constituted a grant of publishing rights. Writers who don't read the fine print carefully enough may find themselves trapped by such provisions.

And then there are the contests/awards with a hidden agenda: making money for the sponsor. Such awards aren't really about honoring writers at all.

There's a complex of red flags that identifies profiteering contest and awards programs. [Read more...](#)

### *Writing for "Exposure"*

By Victoria Strauss for **Writer Beware**

If you're looking to win writing awards and enter writing competitions, though, the profiteering fakers aren't the only risk you face.

For instance...the short story competitions run by Scotland's Almond Press.

Almond's output is tiny--founded in 2012, it has published just three anthologies of stories collected from its annual competitions--but it boasts some impressive sponsors, including Booktrust UK and the University of Stirling, as well as a nice website and attractively-designed book covers.

Its contests have no entry fees, and there's a 100 GBP prize for the winner, who is also promised "Exposure and publicity via our online presence".

Its Terms and Conditions, however, stink. [More...](#)

### *Amazon Takes Action on Phony Reviews*

The actual impact of four- and five-star reviews on Amazon and other retailers' websites is a matter of ongoing debate, but their perceived importance is not. Which explains why, if those reviews aren't accumulating on their own, there's a quick fix--as long as you're willing to hold your nose and open your wallet.

Throw a virtual rock these days, and you'll probably hit a service that, for as little as five dollars, will create a glowing review of your product and post it online--even if the reviewer has never used or even looked at your product.

For retailers, fake reviews are a nuisance, not just because they violate Terms of Use but because they degrade the value of real reviews.

Partly as a result of fake review scandals, consumers are far less trustful of reviews than they were a few years ago. There's even a website called Fakespot that purports to analyze Amazon reviews for veracity. Read the rest of the story [HERE](#).



## January 2015 Author Earnings Report

### Executive Summary

AuthorEarnings reports analyze detailed title-level data on 33% of all daily eBook sales in the U.S.

- 30% of the eBooks being purchased in the U.S. do not use ISBN numbers and are invisible to the industry's official market surveys and reports; all the ISBN-based estimates of market share reported by Bowker, AAP, BISG, and Nielsen are wildly wrong.
- 33% of all paid eBook unit sales on Amazon.com are Indie self-published eBooks.
- 20% of all consumer dollars spent on eBooks on Amazon.com are being spent on Indie self-published eBooks.
- 40% of all dollars earned by authors from eBooks on Amazon.com are earned by Indie self-published eBooks.
- In mid-year 2014, Indie-published authors as a cohort began taking home the lion's share of all eBook author earnings generated on Amazon.com (40%) while authors published by all of the Big Five publishers combined slipped into second place at 35%.

Read the rest of the story [HERE](#).

## Subscription eBook Market

Amazon is killing it in the subscription eBook market according to [Nate Hoffelder, The Digital Reader blog](#).

If you were hoping that new retailers in the subscription ebook market could grow large enough to balance Amazon, then you might want to look for a plan B.

A new survey report from Peter Hildick-Smith's Codex Group reveals that Amazon is dominating subscription eBooks to a surprising degree. Even though Amazon does not have any eBooks from major publishers, the eBook giant has many more subscribers than either of its US competitors.

Read the rest of the story [HERE](#).

## Find Your Own Path

If you stay up late into the night wondering if independent publishers (or Indies, as they are called in the trade) are going to survive in this competitive market, take a look at the [October 2014 Author Earnings Report](#).

You may even be in the middle of a debate with yourself about Amazon, join their exclusive program or share your book with the world.

Every author will need to find their own path. There is no one right answer.

If there's anything the data tells us, it's that readers are starving for great stories at fair prices, and whoever can deliver that consistently has a chance at earning income doing something they love.

Maybe not a great chance at earning a full-time living, but a better chance than at any other time in human history. And that must be celebrated, however you crunch the numbers.

## Kindle Kids

Amazon is beginning to move into the Kids Book market in a big way. Use Kindle Kids' Book Creator to create illustrated children's books, taking advantage of features like text pop-ups. Here's how to get started:

Download the tool and you can convert individual illustrations into interactive books for both Kindle devices and free reading apps.

Once your book is ready, export the file and upload it to KDP.

Set the book category, age range, and grade range to help customers find the right books for their kids.

Want to learn how to prepare, publish, and promote illustrated and chapter books for children? Check out the new [KDP Kids for more information](#).





## MEMBERS CORNER

### ESCAPEES PENWHEELS BOF 2015 ROSTER

Alexakis, Joanne - SKP#19367  
Armstrong, Charlene - SKP#74059  
Armstrong, Margo - SKP#47139  
Audette, Laura - SKP#105258  
Ashby, Del - SKP#67666  
Baeta, Sylvia - SKP#36956  
Baker, Verna - SKP#12812  
Beckes, Dave - SKP#81875  
Behrens, Ellen - SKP#103358  
Benjamin, Lynne - SKP#86190  
Black, Kay - SKP#61973  
Boston, Nicky - SKP#47992  
Bowers, Barbara - SKP#77439  
Browne, James - SKP#20964  
Bruzenak, George - SKP#19361  
Bruzenak, Jaimie - SKP#19361  
Chrestman, Lea - SKP#108812  
Coffer, Paula Jean - SKP#122226  
Creel, Ramona - SKP#115862  
Escapees BoF Coordinator - Kelly Burns - SKP#95893  
Escapees Headquarters - Angie Carr - SKP#2  
Foraker-Thompson, Jane - SKP#112143  
Ford, Joe & Beth - SKP#94183  
Frey, Phyllis - SKP#50253  
Fuller, Bernie - SKP#32  
Galloway, Dennis - SKP#112918  
Gates-Smeall, Donna - SKP#100803  
Hager, Terry - SKP#48315  
Harlan, Dianne - SKP#22486  
Hutchins, Doris - SKP#29167  
Keeffe, Cheryl - SKP#68640  
Klinger, Mary - SKP#110465  
Lacey, Joseph - SKP#9461  
McManus, Marguerita - SKP#116530

Miller, Darlene - SKP#50781  
Mulcahy, Betty - SKP#76334  
Oxford, Verna - SKP#1921  
Penny, Sam & Alice - SKP#41036  
Peterson, Kay - SKP#1  
Prange, Betty - SKP#22195  
Ramos, Beth - SKP#86268  
Rindo, Caroline - SKP#117402  
Siff, Bruce - SKP#20703  
Silvestri, Louis - SKP#9919  
Taylor, Helen - SKP#295  
Winniford, Jeannie - SKP#81050

### Public Land Fee

From Jim Koca, Advocacy Director, Escapees RV Club, a reminder about the congressional vote on land fees, **House Bill 5204**.

As some Escapees are aware, a bill has been introduced in the United States Congress, HB 5204, entitled The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act of 2014, which will allow fees to be collected for most of the "public land" that is controlled by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

If the bill passes, it would allow the Federal Government to charge fees for any activity on land that we presently have access to for free. Fees could include a permit fee, day use fee, or a special use fee. There is the possibility that the bill could be attached to an appropriation bill, which would allow the bill to pass without public comment or debate.

It is time now to get involved and contact your congressman and senators where you have your domicile and let them know that HB 5204 should be defeated. In the past, public lands have been turned over to concessionaires that allowed them to charge fees or to refuse to give discounts for entering the federal lands.

If you would like to review the bill yourself:

<https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5204/text>

To find your congressman, click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).

## Update on Texas Insurance Plan

Some of you have already been notified by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) that they will be discontinuing their individual PPO insurance plans in 2016. BCBSTX paid out over \$400 million more in claims than collected in premiums last year. When I heard this news, I was as shocked as everyone else. The Affordable Care Act has forced insurers in all states to rethink their plans that they offer to consumers.

I, as well as others at Escapees have been working closely with RVer Insurance Exchange and Friesen-Strain Insurance. BCBSTX has presented new plan designs to the Texas Department of Insurance for approval. Any information about the new plans will not be available until mid-October. Everyone is hopeful the new policies will be a modified type HMO with a broader network, allowing for out-of-network benefits. Open enrollment for 2016 will begin on November 1.

I have been in contact with several Congressman and Senators offices throughout the United States and have explained the situation for traveling RVers. They have been sympathetic to our situation and understood the problem with the insurance situation. All of the staff said they would let their superiors know of our concern.

As information is uncovered it will be shared with you.

~Jim Koca, Escapees Advocacy Director

## A Beginner's Guide to the World of Publishing

Here is a [video that contains information](#) about publishing that every writer needs to know.

This panel discussion takes place at FullSail University. Full Sail's degree programs are designed to get you learning and creating at a pace that feels like you're working in the real world.

Their on-campus facilities mirror professional working environments, and the online programs offer an interactive, technology-driven learning experience that fits with your schedule. Become versed in industry technology and processes, and work on real projects that refine your professional skill set.

Panel:

Kim Craft

Course Director, Entertainment Media Publishing and Distribution

Wes Locher

Creative Writing BFA student,  
Independent Comic Writer

Bill Thompson

Course Director, Mobile Marketing and Commerce

Matt Peters

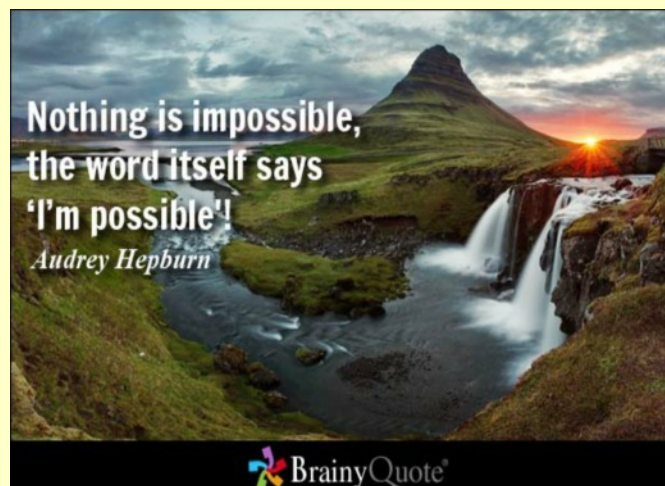
Course Director, Publishing & Distribution

Learn more at <http://w.fullsail.edu/aboutfs>



New feature in **RVillage** Groups! On the left side of the **Group homepage** is a **now a box to be checked** that announces every new topic via eMail.

[RVillage.com](http://RVillage.com)





## *Writing On The Road*

### **Setting the Payment**

"How Much Should I Charge for Freelance Writing?" and why you should not charge by the hour. Includes some important points to consider.

Read more [HERE](#).

### **Finding the Work**

#### **Quick Brown Fox**

This might be a way for budding **mystery writers** to use their talents and get published.

**Quick Brown Fox**, 2 Park Avenue, New York City, NY 10016. Email: [Inquiries@qbfoxco.com](mailto:Inquiries@qbfoxco.com).

Publishes 20 books per year. "A new company creating original mystery and crime content for publication in books and other media." Welcomes new writers. Pays advance. Responds within four weeks. Guidelines available by email.

#### **Kellan Publishing**

1. Collaborative: These are short stories – or novellates - in the same genre. Typically the stories are around 10,000 words.

2. Novellas: Typically 20,000 – 50,000 words.

3. Novels: Typically 50,000 plus words.

Author Rights - Kellan has publishing rights and all rights are returned to the author at the end of the contract. Authors retain their author rights - they just cannot publish their story(ies) anywhere else while on contract.

#### **Thema Literary Society**

Do you have a short story or poem in you waiting to get out? Consider Thema.

"Each issue of THEMA is based on a different unusual theme. The journal is designed to provide a stimulating forum for established and emerging literary artists, to serve as source material and inspiration for teachers of creative writing, and to provide readers with a unique collection of stories, poetry, photography and artwork."

Welcomes new writers. 100% freelance. Circ. 200. Publishes issues March/June/September. Pays on acceptance."

#### **Magazine Sources**

Looking for magazines that pay for articles? Besides Writer's Market and other more well known sources, this article in Writer's Weekly lists three sources and hints on how to contact them.

- Magazine Agent
- Amazon Kindle Magazines
- Magazines.com

Here are two paying markets that might be of interest to Penwheelers. One is a magazine (Fido Friendly) seeking articles about traveling with your dog; the other is The First Line, which helps writers jump-start their creativity.

The rest of the story [HERE](#).

## *Writing Contests & Awards*

### **Recent Winners**



#### **Academy of American Poets**

Walt Whitman Award

Sjohnna McCray of Savannah won the 2015 Walt Whitman Award for his poetry collection, Rapture. He received \$5,000; a six-week all-expenses-paid residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy; and publication of his book by Graywolf Press in 2016. The annual award is given to a poet who has not published a poetry collection in a standard edition. The next deadline is November 15.

[awards@poets.org](mailto:awards@poets.org)

[www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/prizes/walt-whitman-award](http://www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/prizes/walt-whitman-award)

#### **American Literary Review**

Literary Awards \$1,000 plus published in the Review

Michelle Y. Burke - Poetry

Raphael Dagold - Essay

Sharon Solwitz - Short Story





## **Verna Velda Oxford 1922 - 2015**

#1921, d. April 21, 2015

*By Doris Hutchins  
Penwheels Historian*

Verna passed away peacefully at age 92 in Dodge City, Kansas. She was a member of the Women's Army Corp. (WACS) in 1944. After early retirement from civil service work, she purchased a RV and traveled all over the United States. She spent many happy days at a RV Co-op in Casa Grande, AZ. Verna was a member of the Penwheels BOF and contributed numerous short stories to our newsletter. She will be missed by many.

For those wishing to send flowers, add memorabilia, photos, or comments, visit:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/custercountychief/obituary.aspx?pid=175424565>

## **Rattler!!!**

*By Verna Oxford SKP#1921*

*First published Fall Issue 2013*

She had gone to the corral to watch again the beautiful horse.

Carmen removed the handkerchief tied to her foreleg above the fetlock. Carmen stood about six hands higher than the average horse, and was trained to perform several tricks. Carmen's soft muzzle explored necks, hands and pockets of those nearby in search of another cottonseed cake treat, and did find a reward.

As the ranch wife left the corral area, she observed a hen emerging from weeds growing by a corrugated tin shed. She investigated and sure enough another old hen had hid out of her nest, attempting to "set." She mentally debated whether or not to remove the eggs or let yet another hen set as nature was dictating to the chicken.

Recalling that a hundred baby chicks were due to arrive in the mail in about two weeks, and knowing that they needed every cent they could get from selling the eggs to buy groceries when they went to

town in a few days, she stooped and placed the few eggs into her apron, now lifted in a manner to hold the eggs.

As she trudged through the sand and approached the living area she sensed her left foot had stepped on something. Looking down her heart momentarily stopped.

**Rattler!** She had stepped on a rattler! She knew instantly that her foot was too far back to prevent the snake from rearing and possibly striking.

Quick as a flash she crossed her right foot over the left getting it close enough to the head to insure it could not strike.

The snake was writhing and the tail end was loudly proclaiming its presence - a sound that could cause the toughest cowboy to freeze.

It was difficult to maintain her balance, and the eggs nearly took a trip to outer space. Only moments had slipped by but she felt a lifetime had passed before she began shrieking for help. Her screams came across as laden with terror and her ten year old son was quick in response.

As soon as he was close enough to perceive the problem, he detoured to a shed to get a hoe and a spade. Seeing her son approach armed with the tools she untangled her precarious stance and moved swiftly a few yards away. From a safe distance she dispassionately watched her son dispatch the snake, knowing they should now look for the snake's mate, before her five year old daughter would stumble on it.



A prairie diamond back rattler is dangerous and she was proud of herself for being so quick-thinking, as well as of her young son's courage

in killing the snake.

Through years of retelling the story, at times the snake got longer and the number of eggs increased. But basically, this is a true story of one of the incidents my sister experienced in the Sand Hill ranch country portion of Nebraska in about 1939.

