



# ESCAPEES BOF

For Writers Published... Or Not

Summer 2022



## It's TIME!

by Doris Hutchins



*So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night  
I hate to go and leave this pretty sight.  
So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu.  
Adieu, adieu, to yieu and yieu and you.*

Yes it is time for me to resign from Penwheels as your Historian.

Times have changed. Now the newsletter can be seen on computers.

We have come a long way from typing up words and mailing out a great newsletter. I have seen members come and go. Two friends who have been members many years are Jamie Bruzenak and Jo Alexakis. They have served many different positions and continue to do so.

I have enjoyed getting to know such wonderful Escapee members. I have volunteered most of my life at different endeavors and now at my age (94) it is time to take it easy and smell the roses. I won't have to go very far as my daughter, Bonnie, has roses growing in our green house... green house in Alaska? We keep our flowers, purchased from the large greenhouses, in this warm environment until the end of May when it is safe to plant them outdoors. As most people think of Alaska, they visualize people living in Igloos. Wrong! We have some lovely homes here in "the last frontier." June is the best time to visit this arctic wonderland. I should know as I have lived here over sixty years.

I leave and heave a sigh and say goodbye.

Historian, Doris Hutchins #29167

## Editor's Note

from Ellen Behrens

As I write this, we're in eastern Oregon where the rain just keeps coming – so much rain that Portland recorded the most ever recorded in the month of April – around 5.5 inches! That's a lot of water!

No worries. We spent time in the local library so we could access wifi, and I even started looking forward to laundry day. And write? Of course!

What are your best conditions for writing? Do you need a desk? The perfect pen or journal? Soothing or motivational music? Tell us in 250 words or less: "I Do My Best Writing When...." All entries will be published in the next newsletter – and one will win!

We're sorry to report Doris Hutchins has decided to hang up her historian hat. We'll miss her memories! This does open up an opportunity: if **you'd** like to take up the mantle of Penwheels historian, let me or Joanne Alexakis know.

Have an idea of your own you'd like to share in the newsletter? Drop me a line at [ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com).

Happy barbecues!

*Ellen Behrens, Editor*



## Inside this Issue...

Marisa's Profile

Jaimie's Tips

Braggin' Rights

World of Publishing

Little Free Libraries

Fiction Tips

Evolution of English

RVing and Writing – Jo

RVing and Writing -

Jaimie

Strangers & Memoirs

FREE Stuff

**And more!**

## Marisa's Member Profile: Janetta Fudge Messmer



Janetta Fudge Messmer has been turning life into comedy (her amazing tagline) through writing for most of her life. She's pursued it seriously since 2005, and is a published writer thanks to their dog, Maggie (shown above with Janetta).

How's that, you may wonder? When she and her husband rescued Maggie in 2012, their new family member had separation anxiety. With two crates destroyed and one secured with zip ties, Maggie was clearly expressing that her family should retire, sell everything, buy an RV, and hit the road.

At least, that's how Janetta's husband interpreted it, and who can argue with logic like that? They started full-time RVing in 2013, and Janetta used inspiration from their situation and their new adventures to write *Early Birds*. The story features two couples who retire early, travel in their RVs, and help humanity. As it is wont to do, hilarity ensues.

Since *Early Birds*, she's published eight more works, mostly Christian with a touch of romance, one historical romance, and a 30-day Devotional. Given her fondness for inspirational messages and compelling points, all of them are guaranteed to be an excellent read well worth your time—especially these days, when we could all use more laughter and inspiration. Travel feeds into her writing in a few ways – first, as fodder for her characters.

Smartly, she keeps her notebook on her to jot down any funny moments and interesting characters that pop up along the way – this way she can keep tabs on them for later use. In addition, RV life has given her the power of couch-writing. As a pantsner (one who writes by the seat of their pants, natch), she doesn't have a routine to her writing (routines are overrated, sometimes), but location matters. Even now, living part time in a house, the couch is a key place for her productivity.

Though they have that part time house, Janetta and her husband have been RVers for nearly forty years and aren't giving it up anytime soon - they headed back out this spring to avoid the intense heat of Arizona in April. While she's not much for snacking on the road, arrival at a campground means mealtime, and favorites include grilled brats with cheese or a good hamburger and fries (great taste!), all of which makes excellent fuel for writing.

Janetta's favorite class of travel destination is the wealth of our national parks. They've experienced quite a bit of natural beauty in that way – once in Jackson Hole they woke up surrounded by moose. Thankfully they escaped to tell the tale – moose are no joke! Their travels will continue to bring layers of delight to the stories Janetta will keep bringing our way – rumor has it there's something about an itch at Ben & Jerry's that we should ask about if we run into them on the road. Turning life into comedy is a win for all of us, indeed!

Check out Janetta's books on Amazon  
(<https://www.amazon.com/-/e/Bo1DWHAEW>)

and follow her adventures on her website  
(<http://janettafudgemessmer.com/>),

Facebook  
(<https://www.facebook.com/janetta.fudge.messmer>),

or Twitter (<https://twitter.com/nettiefudge>)



*Marisa Wolf has been writing since the age of six when she penned and illustrated "Sarah and the Idaho Potatoes." A science fiction and fantasy novelist, Marisa's latest novel, Ally, is now available. She and her husband have been full-time RVing for the past year and a half.*

*Find out more about her books at [marisawolf.net](http://marisawolf.net).*



## Jaimie's Tips

from Jaimie Bruzenak

For those writing memoirs or for fun - read this from the April 8, 2022 *Writers Weekly*: Q. I am writing a non-fiction book about (topic removed). I am using lots of quotes from other books. Since I'm not doing this to make money, I don't need permission to quote from other books, right? I am sure I won't be making a profit with my book because I'm going to give away copies.

Read the answer at:

<https://writersweekly.com/ask-the-expert/i-can-quote-others-without-permission-if-i-dont-intend-to-profit-from-my-book-sales-right>

Writing for a magazine—or even your blog? What photos of other people can you use? See "Do I need permission to publish blurry or partial photos of people?" See *Writers Weekly*, April 15, 2022: <https://writersweekly.com/ask-the-expert/do-i-need-permission-to-publish-blurry-or-partial-photos-of-people>

If you are thinking of having KDP (Amazon) be your publisher, read these complaints first. Maybe they aren't such a good choice! *Writers Weekly* April 29, 2022: <https://writersweekly.com/angela-desk/and-even-more-complaints-about-amazon-kdp-kindle-direct-publishing>

"Tell your story as though you were trying to keep people awake."

— Kenneth Atchity



## Braggin' Rights

by Joanne Alexakis

In the *Escapees* magazine March/April 2022 issue, Gerri Almand (SKP#159441) rides a blue dragon at the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum in Oregon - page 27.

This magazine's cover photo of California poppies at the Park Sierra SKP Co-op in Coarsegold CA was shot by Betty Prange (SKP#22195).

***You have the right to brag!***

Send your braggin' rights to Jo ([joalexakis@earthlink.net](mailto:joalexakis@earthlink.net)) or Ellen ([ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com)) so we can celebrate with you!

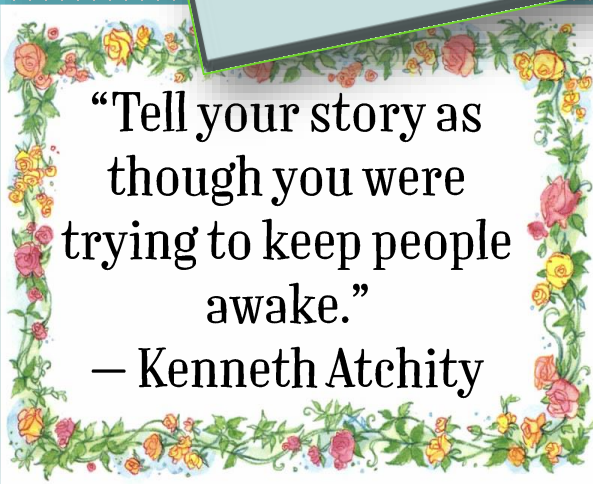
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You?!?  
Contact Ellen or Joanne if you're interested!

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## Little Free Libraries



This month's Little Free Library (left) is from Joseph, Oregon, where it looks overflowing! It's always fun to spot these, but this one, on the grounds of a church, is accompanied by a Blessing Box (right).

"Take what you need. Leave what you can. Be a Blessing" reads the wooden sign.

As in so many areas, rents and mortgages, taxes, and other costs of living have soared here, so while it wasn't surprising to see the food box so empty, it was very sad.



"Without libraries, what have we?  
We have no past and no future."  
-- Ray Bradbury

LFLs can be whatever the person setting it up wants it to be! Jaimie Bruzenak sent a clipping from the 3/15/22 issue of USA Today. It describes how Richard Clifton of Savannah, Georgia, started a LFL in his yard stocked with books that "parents have sought to remove from school libraries."

If you were to create a free library, would you give it a theme or stock it with a particular type of book? Tell us your LFL dreams!

One of the signs on the Blessing Box is further proof that times are tough. It says, in part, "Please, limit to 3 items per household per day."

Have you ever seen a "Blessing Box" or one like it? Let us know – and send an image, if you have one to share.

*OOPS! Your editor goofed in the last issue! The Spring 2022 Little Free Library, courtesy Jaimie Bruzenak, is located in Tubac, Arizona.  
My apologies!*

Are you afflicted by abibliophobia? I am!  
See page 11 to find out if you have it, too!

# World of Publishing

by Margo Armstrong



## Look Out, Here It Comes!

Here it comes folks; every writer's nightmare! Chuck Woodbury, RVTravel.com, recently exposed his new writer, JohnnyRobot, to newsletter readers. However, the general public had been using this AI technology for commercial copy since about 2018. Call it Friday, Jasper, Rytr, Sassbook or [fill in the blank]. Many AI software companies have jumped on the bandwagon with free trial and paid options.

Around 2018, IBM's "Watson" started the trend using artificial intelligence (AI) for commercial copy. Elevated to IBM's supercomputer, the software generated the first Lexus automotive ad script. The story behind this is fascinating. Apparently, Watson was given 15 years' worth of award-winning commercials, and data revealing the event when consumers tended to connect emotionally with advertisements. Add to this an analysis of other emotion-driven car advertising data.

The results produced an ad about a car that's about to be destroyed by humans but manages to save itself through its sentience. Wow! Just an example of how AI is used in the commercial world. Just give the computer the basics. Sit back and enjoy the creativity of many minds at once. So...is AI coming after creative jobs?

If you can't wait to try it out, follow this [link](https://www.searchenginejournal.com/ai-writers-content-generators/448782/) that ranks the top 10 AI writer software and take a look. [https://www.searchenginejournal.com/ai-writers-content-generators/448782/]

## To ISBN or Not – Facts for Self-publishing Authors

A burning question about whether you need your own ISBN (rather than Kindle's free one)? Take it to [Dave Chesson, the Kindlepreneur](#). High on my list of writing pundits, Dave Chesson is the advisor you need for all self-publishing issues. His books, articles and videos present clear and accurate information for the beginning writer or the experienced serial author.

His free webinars take place throughout the year on just about every topic of Kindle publishing including cover choice, book descriptions, promotion and updating or re-publishing. He has been my Kindle go-to-guy since he first started his business and continues to amaze me with new and effective advice.

[https://kindlepreneur.com/what-is-isbn/]

## Getting Your Book Rights Back

From [Victoria Strauss of Writer Beware](#) comes this outstanding article of step-by-step instructions on how to get your book rights back from a publisher. Often at my workshops, a writer tells her tale of woe about switching from vanity (or other type) publisher to self-publishing. Most experienced writers realize that self-publishing with Kindle is the only option right now for most of us, royalty-wise at least. As a result, many writers are dealing with this issue of "reversion of rights."

Victoria includes tips on your behavior in this matter and what to do if the publisher's behavior is not positive. One of the important points in the article, "If you find a copyright claim on editing in a publishing contract, consider it a red flag. If the publisher makes this claim without a contractual basis—as some publishers do—feel free to ignore it."

[https://writerbeware.blog/2022/03/25/requesting-rights-reversion-from-your-publisher]

Margo Armstrong is the author and publisher of over [20 books](#) now available on Amazon. Her book "[Writing and Publishing Books for Fun and Profit](#)" is available in eBook and Print format. Listen to her podcast "RV Lifestyle Expert" on your favorite podcast platform (now available on Amazon Music). Her blog can be found at [MovingOnWithMargo.com](https://MovingOnWithMargo.com)





## Fiction Tips: Make a Scene!

by Deb Sanders



In any work of fiction, the author must maintain a delicate balance between telling the story and showing the story. On one hand, too much description can bog down the narrative and cause readers to lose interest. On the other hand, not enough description can make the narrative feel rushed or confusing. The key is to find the right balance for your particular story by properly using chapters and scenes. As writers, we all know the terms “chapter” and “scene” but do we know the difference between the two, and are we using them correctly?

A **chapter** is a unit of a book consisting of one or more scenes. Chapters are used to break up the story into manageable chunks while creating pace and rhythm. Each chapter should have a purpose, whether it's to advance the plot, develop the characters or set up the next scene.

A **scene** is a unit of action or narrative. There can be multiple scenes within a chapter. Use a dinkus (three asterisks, centered and aligned horizontally on the page) to break up scenes within a single chapter.

Each chapter and scene serve an important purpose by creating flow in your story no matter what genre you write. This rule applies to action-packed thrillers as much as character-driven memoirs.

One tip for chapter structure is to vary the length. Some chapters might only be a few paragraphs long, while others may span a dozen pages. This variety can keep readers engaged by providing them with a sense of momentum. As you write and edit your story, pay attention to the overall pace, and make sure that each chapter is serving its purpose.

Scenes allow you to focus on key moments in your story and provide emotional hooks to capture and keep your reader's attention. These scenes need extra attention during the editing process. Make sure they are fleshed out and provide enough detail to give readers a clear understanding of what is happening. At the same time, be sure to edit out any unnecessary elements that could interfere with the flow of the story.

Both chapters and scenes are used for pacing. Shorter passages can indicate an unexpected plot twist or action. Longer is used to supply detailed information, reveal a bit of backstory, or show internal struggle.

How does YOUR writer's brain formulate your story? By chapters or scenes?

Whether you write and edit by chapters or scenes, the important thing is to keep readers interested and turning pages.

So ask yourself, are my readers on the edge of their seats waiting to see what happens next? Do they care enough about my characters to finish the story? If not, it might be time to revise.



*Debra S. (Deb) Sanders lives in southern Arizona where she embraces the Old West, seeks out good hiking trails, and pens cozy mysteries and thrilling tales late into the night. You can learn more about her books and adventures at <https://debsanders.com>*



# Evolution of the English Language: Its EARLIEST Beginnings

by D. G. Smeall

Language spoken, prior to Anglo-Saxon invasions, belonged to native inhabitants of the British Isles, known as the Celtic Family, around the middle of the first millennium BC.

The Celts were eventually subjugated by the Romans who arrived in 43 BC; however, by 410 BC, the Roman armies were all gone.

"Cornwall, Wales, Cumbria and the Scottish Borders with their Celtic beginnings lost much of their Celtic influences due to the savage destruction of their communities which eventually yielded to the influences enforced by the Romano-Celts and the Anglo-Saxon."

Ultimately the Celtic way of language leaves very little affect on our existing language.

What does this mean? Some Celtic borrowings, some Latin words on loan, and mostly Anglo Saxon "Old English" came into effect starting in the 16th century right up to the real advent of the Old English vocabulary which arrived in the 19th century.

I need to backtrack a bit here, to make a few comments about the introduction of the Celtic borrowings and the Latin words that have managed to remain in extant in the English language today.

At the start of the Anglo-Saxon period, less than 200 Latin words were a part of the Old English language. Now, take note that the VULGAR Latin was not popular in Britain as it was in many other regions of the European corridor. Still, it should be recognized that the Latin language was a major influencer of the evolution of the English language throughout its colorful history.

Name	Meaning (where known)
feoh	cattle, wealth
ūr	bison (aurochs)
þorn	thorn
ōs	god/mouth
rād	journey/riding
cen	torch
giefu	gift
wyn	joy
hægl	hail
nied	necessity/trouble

Eventually, the idea of a singular standard for English was viewed nationally and internationally as being of special importance to a globally social world.

As we writers already know, our existing English/American English, in particular, has only 26 letters to its alphabet. How did we get to this ultimate alphabet? Also, how did people know how Old English sounded?

The unhelpful answer to my second question is that we don't have any records or documentation to point to how the Old English sounded nor will we find those answers until we recognize some key components to help us deduce the sound values for the Old English letters used back before the 19th century.

Four types of evidence will help us with our deductions regarding Old English sounds: alphabetical logic, comparative reconstruction, sound changes, and poetic evidence of the times all play a part in how our English language evolves over the various time passages.

What does that all mean for us? It means that as time went on, when people looked to the logic of the alphabet that was current, they sought to improve on the nuances of the English language, changed sounds where they were murky and confusing, and studied the poetical evidence of their ancestors.

*The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language by David Crystal, page 9, copyright 1995, published by Cambridge University Press.*

[Continued on page 11]



# RVing and Writing

by Joanne Alexakis

RVing began 'my writing career', encouraged it to flourish, and showed appreciation of its creation. SKP Boomer BoF members invited me to writing sessions—my first exposure to 'putting pen to paper' besides scribbling a grocery list. Just kidding—I did write home to my friends and family about Nick and my travels. Traveling was such an eye-opener to me. Imagine! Sunshine in February! A miracle to a Minnesotan used to constant overcast winter skies and horrendously cold, cold, cold wintertime temperatures. I wanted everyone to know about the desert I came to love.

These adventurous SKP friends through the Penwheels BoF introduced me to publishing (my published works are mostly magazine articles), and I enjoyed the successes of their fine books along with them. My short pieces were contributions to some of their books. They gave me support (sometimes having to pull my ideas out of my head for me) and pride to produce more. So many places to visit and tour. So much to write about and express my views. RVing and writing definitely go hand in hand.

***How have your travels—especially by RV—  
influenced your writing? Put your  
experience into words and share them with  
us! Just send your short articles to  
ellenbehr@aol.com***

## Grammar Quiz!

**Is this use of "upon" from a  
published novel correct or  
incorrect? Why?**

"Patricia was too antsy to sleep, so she paced back and forth outside her trailer for half an hour, staring at the yellow crime scene tape and watched as dawn slowly crept upon the park."

*{Answer on page 10}*

## Finding a Publisher

### 1. Find an Agent.

Agents have many contacts and can match you with the right one. Agents do a better job with contract negotiations.

### 2. Directly sending your manuscripts to a publishing house.

If you have been rejected by literary agents countless of times, then it is better that you find a publishing house yourself. You would need to present your manuscript in the most professional way as possible.

## Important Reminders in Finding a Publisher

- Finish the book first.
- Know your audience.
- Market research must be done.
- Consult the writer's market.
- Prepare your manuscript in a professional way.
- Submit the manuscript to the editor.
- Use a self-addressed envelope that is stamped correctly.
- Wait for the feedback.
- Work on your next project.
- Have hope and never give up.

**Give in to the temptation to  
share...**

**Send your stuff!**

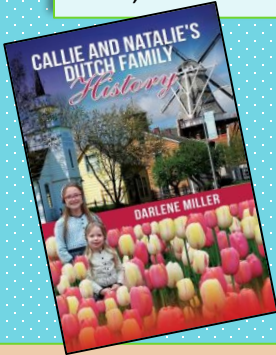
Fall Issue Deadline: Aug 15  
Winter Issue: Nov 15  
Spring Issue: Feb 15  
Summer Issue: May 15

*Publication follows the first of  
the next month.*



## New Book from a Fellow Penwheeler!

Darlene Miller has released her seventh book, "Callie and Natalie's Dutch Family History," true stories that follow her two great-grandchildren, who are direct descendants of the Klein family. The Kleins arrived in Pella, Iowa, in 1847 with 800 other people who founded the town.



Follow Darlene on Facebook and/or check out her author's page on Amazon here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Darlene-Miller/e/B06Y49KMVV>

See the beautifully-done trailer for her new book here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQplJ8P4dtA>

Ninety colored photos enhance the narrative, which Darlene says could be used as a guide to Dutch history in the area.

"In Pella, you will see Dutch architecture, Windmills, the Dutch Historical Village, and even a canal with a retractable bridge. Visit with Callie and Natalie as they go to the Tuttle log cabin to see a similar cabin, that the Scholte's lived in in 1847, and the new house that the Scholte's built the next year. The girls walk in their great-grandmother's footsteps and see where she went to school and to the library in Pella. At the library, they read a book about the Klein family," says Darlene.

"Everyone should tell their family story," she says. "Your family emigrated from somewhere."

She adds, "If Penwheels people will write me at [rovingpenna@gmail.com](mailto:rovingpenna@gmail.com), I will send them the book for \$10.00 plus \$2.16 postage. (The book sells in stores for \$16.95.)"



**If you have a newly released (or re-released) book, share the news so all of us can check it out! Just contact Ellen at [ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com)**



## RVing and Writing by Jaimie Bruzenak

Not only did RVing get me started writing, but it gave me topics to write about and led to several books, one that I authored and several that I co-authored with Alice Zyetz. Writing about travel was a natural. Escapees magazine published an article about a place I explored near the Benson SKP park. Those were the days of no pay and a newsprint newsletter but I was thrilled. My first paid article was with the now defunct Travelin' Magazine. Penwheeler Betty Prange and her husband Lin both encouraged me and provided photos.

Since Bill (my late husband) and I worked and I had taught junior high with units on finding jobs, writing about working on the road was also a natural. Support Your RV Lifestyle! An Insider's Guide to Working on the Road was my first book. Working on the road articles appeared in Escapees magazine and I started writing articles and a regular column for Workamper News. Alice, who passed away quite a few years ago, and I wrote travel articles for "Road Trip America" and co-authored several books including the anthology RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road, to which a number of our RV friends contributed.

RVing changed the direction of my life and opened up a whole new world of writing!



# Why Should Strangers Care About the Story of Your Life?

by Ellen Behrens

Are you working on your memoir? If you're writing it for your own entertainment or for family members, you can skip this bit of advice. But if you're hoping to share your life's story with readers in the wider world, if you're dreaming people you've never met will be inspired by your experiences, there's a critical question you need to ask yourself:

***"Why should somebody I don't know care about my story?"***

Sure, your story is interesting to you because it's *your* story. You're writing about what happened to you. You're telling a real-life story. Doesn't everyone appreciate a true story?

Well, that's part of it. But what's interesting about your story? What is it about your story that will drive people to keep reading?

Debra Spark, in her article, "That's Interesting" for the February 2021 issue of *The Writer's Chronicle*, provides this advice: "Alex Blumberg of Planet Money has his own go-to sentence for evaluating his ideas: 'I'm doing a story about X. And what's interesting about it is Y.' X is the topic. If you can't fill in the Y, then you don't yet have a story. Or, as David Kestenbaum, his cohost on Planet Money says, 'If a story is just about something it isn't a story, it's a topic.'"

Spark goes on to advise us to think of the story we have in mind as a tale we'd tell in a bar, with listeners saying, "And you're telling me this because...?" You don't want to bore people, right? Your "Y" -- *why* the story is interesting, *why* the story is relevant to others -- is what will keep readers from being bored.

What's your story about? What's interesting about it? And you're telling this to others because....?

Answer those questions and your readers will not only finish your book they'll recommend it to others because your book isn't just about you, it's given them something they can relate to, benefit from, and share with others. It's no longer just your book, it's theirs, too. And that's a good thing.

## Grammar Quiz Answer

**"Upon"** means something is on top of something else. In this case, the sentence should read:

"Patricia was too antsy to sleep, so she paced back and forth outside her trailer for half an hour, staring at the yellow crime scene tape and watched as dawn slowly crept **up on** the park."

How did you do? Remember: your spell check function only checks spelling. It doesn't tell you if a word is misused. A handy grammar book can help with common boo-boos like this one!

## Buy Local – Online!

Ever heard of Bookshop? I hadn't either until recently. Here's how they describe what they do: "Bookshop.org is a socially-conscious way to buy books online. We dedicate most of our profits to supporting local, independent bookstores, authors, and publications that cover books. We are preserving the profound cultural benefits of bookstores even when readers prefer the convenience of online shopping."

As shoppers, you can purchase the books you want online while benefitting a local, independent bookstore.

As **book authors**, you can benefit even more!

Go to [BookShop.org](https://bookshop.org) where "Authors can become affiliates and earn 10% of every purchase made from their Bookshop sales--and a matching 10% will go to support independent bookstores." Woohoo!

**We love it when everybody wins!**

# Evolution of the English Language: Its EARLIEST Beginning

by D. G. Smeall

[Continued from page 7]

Still, from the onset of the 19th century today, our English language continues to have shifts in sounds, meanings, and affectations of the speech we use. Variants of the language have evolved over time ultimately to give us many avenues to explore in the English language. To give exaggeration to that point, many different grammar texts were written to help the English scholar begin to understand the sounds of the language.

When I studied in middle and high schools, then moved on to college; I noticed that our English grammar structure and format shifted subtly to fit the times we were living in. Things like slang, idioms, and oxymorons eventually began to creep into the basic vocabulary of the English language.

What I have shared in this issue is just the tip of the iceberg and has not taken us out of the Old English time period. Having said that, I will be extending this topic and adjusting my articles for the future to include a look at the typography of the English language as it shifts over time.

The topic for the next issue will focus on the advance to Middle English and its similarities and dissimilarities to Old English and how this affects us as writers.

*Donna Gates-Smeall is an accomplished writer with two books (Com-PEN-di-um and Forever Friends (co-written with Karol Barkley of Tacoma, WA) under her belt, plus plans to write a few more in her lifetime. She has two Associates degrees and a BA in English.*

Blessed be until next time, D.G. Smeall



## FREE Stuff!!

Everybody loves free stuff, including me. Here are some booklets, newsletters, and other stuff I've come across for FREE that you might find helpful, too. Just remember, most of these will require signing up for a newsletter or to get e-mail alerts of some sort... you can always unsubscribe from those later if you find they are a bother or aren't something you benefit from.

And know that many of these are sales jobs. I've made every effort to try to include only items that will provide some value to you.

**BookBaby** is selling their editing services with "You're Not an Editor: Four questions you need to ask about book editing," but it does provide a nice section explaining line editing, copy editing, and proofreading, with a mention of developmental editing. If you're going to hire an editor you need to know these distinctions or you'll end up unhappy with the results. (I've seen it happen.)

\*Warning:\* They ask for some personal information on their form, which I ended up fudging -- including using "123 Anywhere" or something like that as my street address. (I mean, why do they need to know that?) Be cautious, and here you go: <https://www.bookbaby.com/free-guide/editing-guide>

Kimberley Grabas from **YourWriterPlatform.com** varies the free booklets she gives away for signing up for her e-newsletter. Go to her website and a pop-up will appear. Can you do this more than once? Seems like it -- have more than one of her free guides. And they do provide some nifty info. (I just downloaded on on developing a writer's platform.)

Watch for more FREE Stuff in the Fall 2022 issue! Have freebie leads to share? Send your suggestions to Ellen so we can all benefit!



If you're afraid you'll run  
out of things to read,  
then you have have  
abibliophobia.



# Enter the Penwheels First “Win-Win” Contest!

## What is the Win-Win Contest?

You win if your article is chosen, our fellow Penwheelers win because they benefit from what you’ve shared in the newsletter. So it’s a win-win!

## How do you enter?

Simple! Just submit an article for the Fall 2022 or Winter 2022 issue. Word length: 500-750 words maximum. E-mail it as a Word document (if you can; if not specify what you can send) to Ellen: [ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com). Put “Win-Win Contest Entry” in the subject line of the e-mail. Deadline: August 15, 2022, for the Fall issue; November 15, 2022, for the Winter issue.

## What type of article should you submit?

You can send in something on the craft of writing (how-to do something) or a personal experience essay (especially something related to your writing and/or RV travels). Poetry is also welcome. If you’ve got other ideas, go with your gut and send it in!

## Who can submit?

If you’ve never contributed to the newsletter before, or if it’s been a long time, you’re especially encouraged. The time has never been better to give it a shot! All articles already published in the 2022 newsletters are automatically entered.

## How will winners be chosen?

Okay, I confess. Winners will be randomly picked. Every article, column, news item and other tidbit is always of value to someone, right?

**PLUS!** A random READER will be chosen: just follow directions in a future e-mail blast to qualify.

## When will winners be announced?

Winners will be individually notified by e-mail and announced in the Spring 2023 issue of the newsletter (wow! Thinking ahead, aren’t we?!?).

## What are the prizes?

The prizes are surprises (is that really a surprise to you?), but you can bet they’ll be writing- or RV-related in some way. But it’s not about the prize, anyway, right? It’s more about contributing to your favorite—no, MOST favorite—e-newsletter and supporting the work of your fellow Penwheelers.

***Don’t wait! Get started on your article today so it will be ready to submit!***  
***Questions? Contact Ellen at [ellenbehr@aol.com](mailto:ellenbehr@aol.com)***

## ***YOUR OPINION MATTERS!***

I’d planned another survey to get everyone’s input on the newsletter and to find out more about YOU and YOUR WRITING. But... things being what they are, my long-time survey platform (SurveyMonkey) changed their parameters again so I’d have to pay boo-koo bucks to ask the ten simple questions I had in mind.

Instead of a hosted survey, watch for an e-mail from me that you can respond to. I really want to hear from you!

Thanks! *Ellen*

