



Connections

The official newsletter of the Connecticut Romance Writers Association

Connecticut Chapter, Romance Writers of America, Chapter 1, Region 1

President's Letter

June 2009

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great." — Mark Twain

Sometimes, we writers get feedback that just stomps on our souls. The unkind contest judges who seem to take joy in eviscerating an entry. The numbingly generic rejection letter...or worse, the savagely harsh rejection letter. The critiques that felt more like a public lashing than constructive criticism. Even once you get published, there's the petty gossip of other writers, the terrible review, the e-mail from the reader who hated your book.

Sometimes, the best course of action is to simply ignore these folks. One of the best qualities a writer can have is faith. Not just in the universe or a higher power (though that can certainly help), but faith in self. All of us became writers for a good reason. We have a story to tell. We have voice, talent, creativity. All of us. Every one.

Not every person is going to love your book, whether you're Charles Dickens or Nora Roberts. I can assure you that someone is going to *hate* what you've done...and that he or she is going to say so. What matters is your determination to achieve your goals. How much work do you have in front of you to accomplish what you want? How committed are you to making this happen?

Writing a good book is *hard*. Anyone who says different is just not telling the truth. And yet, within our own little group, successes happen all the time. Take a look around. Not everyone who gets the call was the likeliest candidate. They got the call just the same. Ignored past failures, tuned out those who said they'd never sell, opened their minds to learning the craft and, eventually, got the call.

The greatest victories are often those that seem impossible. Mine That Bird, a horse ranked dead last, won the Kentucky Derby last month. A kid with a broken ankle stuck the landing in the Olympics and earned a gold medal. Apollo 13 came home. Barack Hussein Obama is President of the United States. The odds were profoundly against all of them. What's getting a book deal compared with stuff like that? Are the odds against us, too? Yes. Does it hurt sometimes? Yes. Will it take work? Yes. Can it really happen?

Yes.

Keep the faith, writers.

~Kristan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- President's Letter1
- Calendar.....2
- Board Members3

COMMUNITY

- Member News.....2
- Member Interview.....3

CRAFT

- History Geek's Guide.....4
- Heroscopes.....5
- The Body Speaks.....6

CAREER

- Using Twitter to Network and Market Your Books.....7
- Care and Feeding of Your Blog.....8

NEXT MEETING

June 13

The Best or Worst Dressed Heroine, an Authentic Historical Wardrobe

MONTHLY MEETINGS of the CTRWA are held at The Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. Non-members are welcome to observe a meeting before joining. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. with a speaker or workshop at 11:00. PYOW lunch follows. See our website (www.ctrwa.org) for more information and directions.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do you do if you have more than one story in your head that 'wants' to be written?

Lindsay Downs: I'm having that problem now. So what I do is write one story and plot the others. Yes plural as I have several already in plot.

Kristan Higgins: I keep taking swipes at a new idea, jotting down lines or snippets that occur to me, but I'm kind of anal about finishing one thing before I start another.

Marie Roy: I'm going through that right now editing a story that is being considered by a publisher, and drafting up a sequel in the Todd Hollow series. I literally do put on different hats since these stories are totally opposites in genres. One is lighthearted, an erotic romantic comedy, and the other has or will have dark elements that continue to put the Todd Hollow community on edge. It is pretty much like acting, getting into character and then able to write from that character's perspective. Example is pretty much like Myrl Streep who played the leading roles in Mama Mia and Doubt. I don't think you can be pretty much at the end of either side of the spectrum than that.

News from Marie Roy:

I just signed a contract with a new epubliher (Damnation Books) for a two-book series that I refer to as my Todd Hollow series. These are "dark" forensic thrillers that involved not only erotic elements but mystery, murder, and a bit of mayhem. They are targeted for release this fall and winter. Damnation's site is <http://www.damnationbooks.com>.

I'm also in the process of putting up a new blog titled Summer Blow Out Sale (<http://summerblowoutsale.blogspot.com/>) where I am selling four of my ebooks (erotic romance stories) at reduced prices. These were with Forbidden Publications, who closed their doors in March. And since all rights have reverted back to me I'm can offer these reads at blow out prices.

News from Kristan Higgins:

FOOLS RUSH IN, Kristan's first book, is being reprinted again, having sold over 200,000 copies thus far, and CATCH OF THE DAY and JUST ONE OF THE GUYS are scheduled for reprint as well.

Kristan got to see the inside of the incredible Woolworth Building on a recent visit to Harlequin to meet with some of the fine folk there. Summer plans include finishing the first draft of her latest ro-co, going barefoot and eating lots of seafood up on Cape Cod, along with a trip to RWA National, where she will attend the presidents' retreat and also get to present the RITA for best single title.

News from Lindsay Downs:

Lindsay has a book signing on June 14, 2009 from 1pm-4pm at Borders, 500 Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury, CT.

News from Patricia Grasso:

"To Charm A Prince", "To Catch A Countess", and "Pleasuring The Prince" sold to Japan.

CALENDAR: Save the Dates!

A NEW TREND! This year CTRWA will hold meetings in July and August just to keep our momentum going!

July 11th: This meeting, for members only, will be held in Branford at Janet Messina's place, just down the street from the beach...more info will be coming.

August 8th: This meeting will be at the hotel – topic to be announced soon.

Watch for the email – coming soon – to sign up for Michael Hauge's **Story Mastery** on November 7th (sign up by July 1).

*Chapter volunteers - free
Nonvolunteer members - \$65
Nonchapter members - \$85
Lunch is NOT included.*

An Interview with Paula Sharon

1) Tell us a little about yourself.

Three years ago, I moved to the lovely Berkshire's of Western Ma. with the man of my dreams, leaving behind my home town of Enfield, CT. After raising two sons on my own and working as a Physical Therapist Assistant for 19 years, I was ready to start a new life. With my sons out on their own, a thriving private practice as a Massage Therapist and Personal Trainer, and renovations of our 160 year old house well underway, life had turned 180 degrees. When the lilacs bloomed that spring, the muse came upon me. I never imagined that in my 40's, I'd be getting married, singing opera and writing Romance Novels.

2) What do you write?

Having written poetry, short stories, editorials and stacks of journals, I considered myself a recreational writer, but after a financial seminar touting publishing as a "passive stream of income," I was struck by the possibilities. What could I write that people would read and pay me for? I began to notice bookshelves in every store lined with Romance Novels and thought; this is something I know about! I picked up a few, saw some that were terribly written (I could do better than this), and then others that were amazing, (I am so far out of my league). Before long, I was a romance junkie. Joking with a friend about the perfect world where we live on an island, stay young and beautiful forever and hunky men serve our every need, my first story was born. Nine months later I had 120,000 words of crap, but I loved every minute of the process.

3) What inspired you to start writing? What brought you to your first CTRWA meeting?

One of my clients was a retired high school English teacher who agreed to help me learn the craft of writing in exchange for massage; three years later, we are still exchanging. The stories kept coming and I kept writing and learning, but I knew I needed guidance, re: the world of publishing; hence, my first RWA meeting. Kristan Higgins was my first contact and I can't say enough about how supportive and willing she was to answer questions, returning my relentless e-mails, sometimes at 7am. Thank you, Kristan!

4) What are you working on now?

Two paranormal, two contemporary romantic action/adventures, and a YA romantic suspense later, I agree with whoever said "the first 500,000 words are just practice." Of course, until recently, I was a first draft addict, having no idea how to revise all those wonderful stories that poured forth from the depths of my soul and psyche. I also realized that I am writing, not for the money (of which I've made zero for the countless hours of tireless dedication to my craft), but because I simply must write. The stories and characters that live in my imagination will not be dismissed, often waking me at night, sharing my shower and otherwise infiltrating my brain at every turn. Suffice it to say, I no longer consider myself a recreational writer.

My most recent book--as most books do--came out of the blue. While home with the flu in February, (only a writer could be happy about such an event), I spent six days, ten hours a day, writing. I wrote 35,000 words in less than a week and fell in love with the story and characters. Writing a young adult novel was never a goal, but this story cried out to be told. Because of the age of my heroin and her childhood trauma, steamy sex was not an option. Eliminating the overt sexuality forced me to focus on plot and character development. At 50,000 words, the book also made revision less overwhelming.

7) What are your writing plans for the future?

With all that I have learned about the craft, from books, workshops, conferences and my wonderful teacher friend, my writing has evolved into something beautiful and profound. At May's RWA Fiction Fest, I pitched my story and two agents and an editor requested a submission. Although I have learned not to attach myself to the outcome of things, I have a good feeling about my future as a writer. I look forward to the National Convention in Washington, celebrating my fellow writer's successes, and enjoying a long and--one can hope--profitable adventure with RWA.

Connections is published monthly by CTRWA. Nothing may be reproduced without giving credit to CTRWA and the author.

The History Geek's Guide to Historical Worldbuilding by Nancy Northcott

Have you ever said, "I'd love to write a historical, but I don't know enough history even to start?" Do you know other writers who feel that way? If so, I'm going to let you in on a little secret we history geeks have been keeping: Historical worldbuilding is not really as hard as it looks.

It may seem intimidating, what with the clothes and the houses and the manners and the transportation and the (questionable) sanitation. The nice thing about history, though, is that experts have delved into these fields and provided handy resources for the writer who knows where to look. This article will cover references for the basic building blocks of historical worlds.

General histories of particular periods make good jumping-off points for knowing the characters' worlds. Examples would be *English Society in the Eighteenth Century* by Roy Porter, or *Our Tempestuous Day*, by Carolly Erickson (about Regency England). Studies of medieval England abound. Joseph and Frances Gies wrote a series of books about life in medieval England. Marjorie Rowling was also prolific about this period. The Gies and Rowling books come into print and go out but are readily available through libraries or used book dealers.

Biographies of rulers or other people of note during the particular period can also be very helpful for insight into their social circles, home furnishings, and even food. *The Duchess*, a biography of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire in Georgian England, contains social detail about that period. *Bess of Hardwick*:

Empire Builder, a biography of a much-married, socially prominent noblewoman, includes a wealth of information about the nobility of Elizabethan England.

Once you have a good picture of the character's world, placing the social scene in perspective becomes easier. *Elizabeth's London* and *Dr. Johnson's London*, both by Liza Picard, are readable, practical sources for everyday life in London during these periods. There are quite a few other excellent, more general sources about the city. Such books often address recreational activities and common means of transportation for people of the upper social classes. The *Writer's Digest* books about different periods are a good starting point

for details about daily life but a little sketchy to be sole references.

Hugh and Marjorie Quennell wrote a series of books about daily life in different periods of British history. While the Quennell books are no longer in print, copies are available in many libraries and from online booksellers. Joseph and Frances Gies published numerous studies of life in medieval England. Emily Hendrickson's *Regency Reference Book* is a practical, comprehensive look at the ton and its practices. Dover Publishing has wonderful books about various aspects of life in the past, from armor and weaponry to fashion. The Dorling Kindersley reference books for children often contain many helpful details.

Of course, characters need places to live. Books about castles are readily available in most libraries and online, as well as in stores. Margaret Wood's *The English Medieval House* is very informative. So are Mark Girouard's *Life in the English Country House* and *The Country House Companion*. Books about Victorian life have recently become more available, including *Inside the Victorian Home* and *What Jane Austen Ate and Dickens Knew*. These sources generally give some information about staffing these homes, too.

Characters also need wardrobes. There are many books out about fashion through the ages. Dover books recently reissued Herbert Norris' excellent books about fashion during particular periods. Meals sometimes figure in novels. My favorite resource is Sara T. Paston-Williams' *The Art of Dining*, which has chapters on food and dining during different periods in English history. Books on daily life and housekeeping may also help in this area. So can biographies. Courtship and marriage customs turn up in books about the history of families and family law and in women's history books. Lawrence Stone wrote a number of books about family relationships and family law. There are a variety of books about women and households in particular periods and numerous books about social customs, including courtship. *Women in England 1500-1760: A Social History*, by Anne Lawrence, and *Marriage and Love in England 1300-1840*, by Alan MacFarlane are good examples. Again, biographies of famous women such as *Bess of Hardwick* and the *Duchess of Devonshire* usually contain useful

information on courtship and marriage customs as well.

The trick to all of this is to go to a good reference, find what you need, and stop rather than obsessing over every single detail. If you're not sure what you need, you can check author Patricia Wrede's list of worldbuilding factors, posted on the website of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America:

www.sfwaworldbuilding1.htm. This comprehensive list is tailored more for fantasy writers who're building entire worlds than for authors slotting into a world that once existed. The last couple of segments, on daily and public life, however, offer categories that might spur interesting story details. Online booksellers can provide a useful overview of what's available, but I recommend using the local library or interlibrary loan to check out a book before purchasing it. I hesitate to trust websites unless they're maintained by universities, organizations devoted to the particular period, or people who have some credentials on the subject. Anyone can put just about anything on the web, with no one checking for accuracy.

To recap, building a historical world takes only 5 easy steps:

- 1) Become familiar with the period's general tone and issues;
- 2) Investigate the characters' social surroundings and ranks, including their recreational activities and customs for courtship;
- 3) Figure out what kind of home the characters have, a consideration that will determine the furnishings and staffing as well;
- 4) Dress the characters;
- 5) Decide whether you want to include food and, if so, what kind.

Now you're ready to start. Other questions may arise as you go, but having covered these five steps should help you know where to find the answers.

Nancy Northcott earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, as a history major and spent a summer studying Tudor and Stuart Britain at Oxford University. A lifelong anglophile, she loves English social history and biographies. Her historical romance manuscripts have finaled in the Maggie Awards, the Orange Rose, the Daphne du Maurier Awards, and the Golden Heart and have won Put Your Heart in A Book, the Emerald City Opener, and the Molly. Visit her on the web at www.nancynorthcott.com. This article first ran in the June 2009 issue of The Final Draft, the newsletter of Carolina Romance Writers in Charlotte. NC

Heroscopes: The Gemini Heroine

by Bonnie Staring

She's the talk of the town, talking about the town. Born between May 22 and June 21, the Gemini heroine is the rule-bender of the Zodiac. She's a gal who thrives in environments where she can color outside the lines and make up the rules as she goes. This makes her a popular addition to any guest list – whether it's a wedding, garden party or monthly staff meeting, she'll make sure it's a happening event. Who knew how much fun a stapler could be?

The Gemini heroine is the master of change. Her adaptability and creativity are legendary, and so is her tendency to take on way too much. Let someone else steer the ship and spot the icebergs while she takes on the roles of cruise director, catering manager and makes sure the cabana boys know where to find the Lido Deck.

The way to a Gemini heroine's heart is to stand out from the crowd (in a good way). Be warned: she's the type who prefers a lengthy test drive to ensure things stay interesting past the third date. Ideal dates for her capture her attention, so treat her to a night of celebrity-spotting, a day of outdoor antiquing or an evening of dancing near the peak of an active volcano. Famous Gemini heroines include Anne Frank, Queen Victoria, Stevie Nicks and Marilyn Monroe.

Bonnie Staring is a comedic triple threat (writer, performer, coupon user). Her articles regularly appear in a variety of magazines and she conducts workshops on creativity and discovering your inner superhero. See what else Bonnie's been up to at www.bonniestaring.com. This article first appeared in the June 2009 issue of romANTICS, the newsletter of the Toronto Romance Writers, Susan Haire, editor.

CRAFT

The Body Speaks and You Can Learn Its Language By Brenda Davis

Every writer has heard the adage “Show don’t tell.” But how do you do that? Ever wonder how to describe a villain’s glower? The heroine’s anguish? Some helpful tips come in **What Every Body Is Saying**, written by Joe Navarro, an ex-FBI agent who specialized in non-verbal intelligence. Joe offers some answers for your next writing projects.

This book will have you “speed-reading” people with just a bit of practice. Sentences in your manuscript such as, “He was angry,” will be transformed to “He squinted. His forehead furrowed, his jaw tightened and lips drew together, almost vanishing.”

Joe tells writers what to look for when studying the person’s feet, legs, torso, arms, hands and face. He offers insights into what that behavior means and shares anecdotes of how he has used non-verbal clues to negotiate situations in his personal and professional life.

Ok, to whet your appetite, here are 13 tips on non-verbal communication from this intriguing book.

1. You’ve heard about the “flight or fight” response when people are confronted with danger, but did you know that before they make their choice, they freeze?
2. That freeze reaction, the author says, helps people to “hide” from predators and take a moment to process the situation and its options.
3. People sometimes signal discomfort by rubbing their foreheads.
4. When people are nervous, they often engage in pacifying or comforting behaviors such as hair twirling, face touching or even gum chewing and cigarette smoking.
5. A person rubbing his or her neck may be saying that you or the topic you’re discussing is a pain in the neck.
6. In a tense business meeting, a man may pause to adjust his tie.
7. After a near accident, a man may exhale with puffed-out cheeks.
8. Want to know if a couple is getting along? Look at their legs and feet. Are their bodies turned toward each other? Are their feet close to each other? Generally, people position their body to lean TOWARD someone they like.
9. We lean AWAY from people we disagree with.
10. When we can move away from unpleasant situations or people, we often use our arms as barriers. We cross them over our chests.
11. We also can use our clothes as barriers. In an uncomfortable situation, we may pull a sweater closed or button a jacket.
12. Ever seen someone “steeple” their hands, placing fingertips to fingertips? That signals confidence.
13. Lowering your chin and tucking your head between raised shoulders signals the opposite: a lack of confidence.

To sum up, **What Every Body is Saying** is packed full of nonverbal behaviors you can interpret and use to add richness to your descriptions. Read this book for ways to dramatically SHOW your characters’ emotions—not just put a one-word label on them. I’ve simplified to keep the information article-sized and snappy. For the full explanation, I strongly suggest you give the book a read. It will help you to deepen your writing.

Brenda comes from a family of English teachers and authors. After years as an English teacher, she’s trying her hand at writing. She’s an avid reader of books about the writing craft and a weekly blogger at <http://otherworlddiner.blogspot.com/> This article first appeared in the April issue of The Write Touch.

CTRWA 2008 Board Members

Kristan Higgins, *President*
k.higgins@snet.net

Toni Andrews
Vice President/Director of Programming
toni@toniandrews.com

Lindsay Downs
Secretary/Membership Coordinator
lindsay@lindsaydowns.com

Lois Pegg, *Director of Publicity*
lois-pegg@sbcglobal.net

Janet Messina, *Treasurer*
janmessina@comcast.net

Karen Pinco, *Newsletter Editor*
kpinco@gmail.com

Joy Smith, *Member at Large*

Using Twitter to Network and Market Your Books

by **Beth Barany**

In addition to a website, newsletter, and a blog, authors can use social networking tools to connect with friends, make new friends, interact with readers, and gain new readers.

What is Twitter?

In their own words, Twitter is “a real-time short messaging service that works over multiple networks and devices”. By short message, they really do mean short. Messages are only up to 140 characters long. That’s approximately one to three sentences. Another way to think of Twitter is that it’s a microblog. People use it write about anything and everything, from what they ate for lunch, to reporting breaking news as it happens, to promoting some cool service or product they found or are offering.

Why Use Twitter

I use Twitter because it’s fun! And it’s a great way to procrastinate. Yes, it’s both of those things, and I think it does what social networking does best: It connects us with others of like mind. In just 140 characters, you can tell your followers about your latest book, a cool tip, or what you ate for breakfast. It’s a way to foster a new fan base, and reach out to people already active on the Internet. Chances are they’ll surf over to your site and see what your book is about.

Author Carolyn Jewel (*My Forbidden Desire*, Forever, June 2009) says, “You don’t need any skills besides some basic literacy and you don’t have to spend hours updating and creating content, adding information, or feeling bad that you haven’t done those things or checked the site.”

How to Set Up Your Twitter Profile

Setting up your profile on Twitter requires less time than Facebook because it only asks for a user name, a website, and a bio in 160 characters or less. Therein lies the power of Twitter. Forced to communicate in short segments, you get to write something interesting and useful at the same time. Like Facebook, you can also invite and connect your email lists. People ‘follow’ you in Twitter. You have ‘followers’. You are ‘following’ others.

How to Use Twitter

Because you have such a short space in which to write, Twitter forces writers to really focus in on what’s important. And what is that? Well, that depends on who you want to speak to and why. I’m assuming that you want to build your list of readers, and build rapport with potential readers. So your posts could be either be a micro back-cover blurb teaser, semipersonal posts about your daily life, a tweet about a cool resource you found online, or talking up another author’s book. For those of you who already maintain a blog or site, Twitter is also a great way to send people to your blog. Always add a URL to send people to your book, blog, or site. Use www.tinyurl.com to shorten your long web address to 25 characters, thus saving space for content.

How to Build Followers on Twitter

This is the question people ask me the most. The answer is simple. Find others to follow and others will in turn follow you. Some of them will, anyway. After you’ve invited people from your email accounts, find people with common interests, by location, or with keywords by using Twitter’s Advanced search tool: <http://search.twitter.com/advanced>. Search using keywords like book reviewer, historical romance, (or whatever your genre is), author, or literary agent, etc.

For Jewel, Twitter is “exponentially more effective and important than the ‘traditional’ [social networking] sites.” I agree. The people you follow become a community, and create a conversation that flows around the world. And you get to be a part of that conversation, one you might not normally be a part of.

I follow people I think would be interested in what I have to offer. They can choose to follow me or not. You can opt to approve those who ask to follow you, or you can let anybody follow you. I find it’s best to let anybody follow you. You never know who is a potential reader. I am selective, however, of whom I follow. I only want interesting and fun people, usually writers, and other creative types, book industry professional, and also bleeding-edge tech people.

Note: When I find someone interesting to follow, I check out their followers, and if I like them, I follow those folks too.

In addition to the ability to connect with potential readers, you can connect with bookstores, libraries, agents, editors, reviewers, columnists, the LA Book Fair, the New York Times Book Review, publishers, and experts in the book publishing and marketing world. Jewel adds, "You suddenly have a community view that you would never have if you didn't happen to be an insider yourself... Your view of that community is suddenly bigger, richer, more intimate and far more informed. You simply cannot get that from MySpace or Facebook. And, within that community, your voice is heard, too. You're in the conversation and some portion of it is, in fact, all about you. On purpose. Your followers want that."

So, come join the conversation, and have fun in the process. Twitter.com takes only a little bit of time and can broaden your reach as an author. See you on Twitter!

The Promotion Posse is a monthly column spotlighting promotional strategies for authors, written by members of SFA-RWA with a knack for PR. Beth Barany is a Creativity Coach to Aspiring Authors, and writes YA fantasy. She can be contacted at www.bethbarany.com, www.writersfunzone.com/blog, and www.twitter.com/bethbookcoach. First printed in the May 2009 issue of "Heart of the Bay," newsletter of the San Francisco Area RWA.

Ten Tips on the Care and Feeding of Your Blog

By Debra K. Maher

Through the miracle of WordPress.com, Blogger, or TypePad, you've created a blog. But to thrive, a blog needs to be groomed and nurtured.

1. Establish a focus. Is your blog a personal journal? Is it to promote your books? Add a short one-liner so readers know what to expect. Examples:
Magical Musings – (<http://magicalmusings.com>) – Four writers who believe no story is complete without a little magic.
Daily or Not – (<http://caitlondon.blogspot.com>) – Cait London's take on writing, reading, and life.
Murderati – (<http://murderati.typepad.com>) – Mysteries, murder, and marketing.
2. Personalize your template. Many free templates offered by WordPress and Blogger can be made your own by customizing the header and/or sidebars.
3. Give it identity. Post a short bio. Link it to your other site/s.
4. Post often to keep it fresh. Daily? Weekly? Bi-weekly? A regular schedule establishes connections with those who start to anticipate your postings.
5. Offer more but keep it neat. Keep your sidebar links organized and up-to-date. Check back for "dead links." Periodically groom, trim, and add new.
6. Show your style. Let your postings reveal your writer's voice.
7. Post pictures. Use photos you have taken to complement your writing. If you don't have a digital camera, beg, buy or borrow one then learn to use it.
8. Don't clutter with ads. Personal bias here. If your blog's purpose is to sell your name and establish your brand, why create clutter with annoying ads for other stuff? Like everything in your writing life, keep it professional and focused.
9. Install a counter. StatCounter.com offers one of the best free counters I've come across. It offers visible or invisible counters. You can then log on for other useful statistics.
10. Visit others. Comment succinctly, and make sure to link discreetly back to your own blog.

Feed your blog, but don't let it become a monster that takes over your writing life. When handled appropriately it can become a strong asset to your career.

When not working on her latest historical suspense, Debra K. Maher can be found at Stringing Beads (<http://debmaher.com>) This article first appeared in the April issue of The Write Touch.