

THE FICTION FLYER
An Ezine for
Readers and Writers of Fiction
 TRI STUDIO BOOKS LLC
www.TRI-Studio.com

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A New Wikipedia-Style Book: The First of Many? Kathe Gogolewski	Page 1-2
The Fiction Flyer Membership Contest	Page 2
Book Review by Carolyn Howard-Johnson: Bittersweet Crude by Jay Bern	Page 3
Investment Perspectives for Writers: Uncle IRAS By Raymond Gogolewski	Page 4
Contests for Fiction Writers	Page 5
Writing Flash Fiction and the November Prompt	Page 6-7
FEATURE: An Interview with Lea Schizas: Co-Organizer of The First Muse Online Writers' Conference	Page 7-10
Subscriber News	Page 11-13

Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

Many thanks to so many of you who wrote to tell us that you are enjoying our ezine. Since this is a new venture for Ray and me, it means a lot to hear it. We hope you'll continue to let us know what you like, so that we can tailor the Flyer to fit your needs

and interests.

In this issue of *The Fiction Flyer*, you'll find a fascinating interview with Lea Schizas. She talks about her brainchild, the first Muse Online Writers' Conference. Whether you did or didn't attend the conference, there's lots of good information for future attendees and presenters. She discusses the inner workings of the conference and ways to make it even better next year. You'll also enjoy an interesting review by Carolyn Howard-Johnson of *Bittersweet Crude*, a first novel for Jay Bern.

As always, Ray includes his *Investment Perspectives for Writers*; this time, he talks about IRAs. This article is a must-read for anyone who has not started an IRA, or would just like to find out more about them.

We have more fun submissions from our readers for The Flash Fiction Writing, so please don't miss them, and do catch the prompt for the next issue!

In keeping with the most current news, I discovered a new style of publishing from Wharton School of Publishing, which I found intriguing, and wrote the article about Wikipedia-style books. Are there more to come? I hope so.

We are still accepting your book related news; don't forget to submit! We have over 200 subscribers, and the list keeps growing. At this time, there is no charge for the service.

There will be no issue in December, so expect the next in your boxes in January.

Please send your comments to Kathe or Ray.
kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net or raygogo@sbcglobal.net.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Fiction Flyer*.

Happy Reading!
 Kathe Gogolewski

More website tips to increase traffic to your site:
Is your site easy to navigate? You can have hundreds of pages, but do not crowd a page with all the choices available. Allow users to click on a page to get a few more choices, then click on the new page for a few more, etc. Too much clutter on one page will turn users away.

**A New Wikipedia-Style Book:
 The First of Many?**
 By Kathe Gogolewski

Usually when an author contributes to an anthology, the glory is shared with four, five, ten, maybe twenty other authors. Sometimes, the numbers get even higher. But, unless you pick up a volume densely packed with thousands of entries from a poetry scam, it's a sure bet that the numbers have never reached that level for a legitimate book...not even close. And if they did, what self-respecting author would care to contribute?

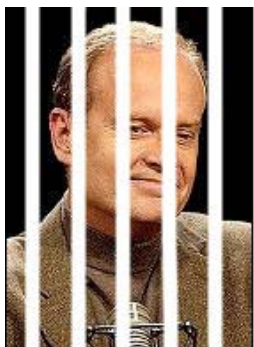
Think again. A fresh, out-of-the-box idea from Wharton School of Publishing, an imprint of Pearson Education, will generate the first Wikipedia-style book, *We Are Smarter Than Me*. Following the success of companies such as MySpace, Friendster, and YouTube, the book will address unique ways that Web 2.0 technologies can benefit business by encapsulating the knowledge of thousands of collaborating authors. To date, nearly 900 people have signed on, after responding to an email sent to 10,000 students, faculty and alumni at MIT's Sloan School of Management and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



According to the project website, www.wearesmarter.org, the central premise is that "large groups of people ("We") can, and should, take responsibility for traditional business functions that are currently performed by companies, industries and experts business functions that are currently performed by companies, industries and experts ("Me")."

Students and affiliates of their schools are not the only ones invited to participate. Anyone with a background or

continued on page 2



**WRITER WRY TOON:
 BAD GRAMMAR**

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WIKIPEDIA BOOK (Continued from page 1)

experience in technology or management has an open invitation, as well. The website states, "Be an author of the first networked book on business. Together we will write the book on how the emergence of community and social networks will change the future rules of business. Collaborate with authors from MIT, Wharton, and thousands of professionals from around the world. See your name in print when the book is published next fall by Pearson Publishing."

Cofounders of *We Are Smarter Than Me* include Barry Libert, CEO of Shared Insights, a company that helps businesses build communities; Tim Moore, vice-president, editor-in-chief of Prentice Hall; Jon Spector, vice-dean and director of Wharton's Aresty Institute of Executive Education; Jerry Wind, director of the SEI Center for Advanced Management at Wharton; Thomas Malone, director of MIT's new Center for Collective Intelligence; and Phillip Evans, senior vice-president of the Boston Consulting Group and author of *Blown to Bits*.



Networking emblem

Chapters in progress for Part I include: *Narrator's Introduction* and *We Can Do It*. Part II (Case Studies: Who Is Using Communities Successfully) includes *We Can Research It*, *We Can Market It*, *We Can Put A Price On It*, *We Can Sell It*, *We Can Distribute It*, *We Can Service It*, *We Can Finance It*. Part III (Tools and Technologies for Your Community Success) includes *We Can Manage Ourselves*, *We Can Train Ourselves*, *We Can Govern Ourselves* and *We Can Develop The Technologies*. Part IV (Additional Chapters on Community You Would Like to See) so far includes: *We Can Change The Plan*, *We Have More to Say*, *We Can Design Our Community Currency*, *Social Behaviour Behind Communities*, *We Can Foster It In Our Youth*, *We Can Do It? But How?* *We Can Answer The Question: What's In It For Us?*

Notes for each section help authors get started. One such section reads, "Let's start by looking at the characteristics of traditional management structure. Many businesses are run under specific assumptions that are often not questioned. Let's question them, and then compare them to the nature of community-based systems."

Donna Carpenter, founder of WordWorks, will trim the text down to a mere 35,000 after incorporating information garnered from all authors. The print edition will only contain about 150 pages. Libert expresses a desire to continue the project ad infinitum, creating a series of Wikipedia style

continued next column

WIKIPEDIA BOOK continued

books on management and community. "In effect," he says, "we'll be taking snapshots in moments of time."

Will this be the first of many of its kind? If the idea is catching, then surely we'll see many more from innumerable sources covering every topic imaginable. Maybe one of you will start the next one!



click on picture to visit WeAreSmarter.org

THE FICTION FLYER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Have you enjoyed the last few issues of The Fiction Flyer? If so, perhaps you won't mind recommending it to a friend. We'd like to make it easy for you. If your friend responds to your recommendation and asks for a subscription, we will enter both your names into a drawing. The prize? You may each choose a prize from our Contest page located here: <http://tristudio.com/CONTESTS2.html> Here's one of the prizes available on the page to whet your appetite, a pair of hand-etched wine glasses. The designs come to life when filled with wine:



Other prizes include keepsake boxes, hand-etched with a fine point burn tool; a copy of TATO by Kathe Gogolewski, Flashes in the Pan by Ray Grant; and A Promise to Keep by Ann Durand, and more.

To qualify, tell your friend to write SUBSCRIBE in the subject heading of an email, and to write YOUR name in the body of the email. Send it to kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net.

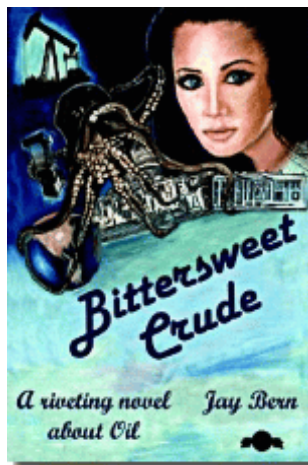
The drawing will be held on Jan 15, 2006. Subscribers only are eligible for the contest.

Mystery Meets Modern Oil Industry

Bittersweet Crude by Jay Bern

Reviewed by Carolyn Howard-Johnson, award-winning author of *This is the Place* and *Harkening: A Collection of Stories Remembered, Tracings* and *The Frugal Book Promoter: How to Do What Your Publisher Won't*

It is rare that a novel is released in time to run head-on into the political traumas it portrays. After all, it takes some time to craft a novel and current events tend to be fickle. It turns out *Bittersweet Crude* by Jay Bern is ahead of its time.



Released last year by a subsidy house, this novel didn't find its groove easily. Given the oil-induced headaches governments are experiencing, that may be about to change. Here is an author who knows about the inner-workings of crude and the way it is inextricably braided into politics. He takes those truths and weaves them into a story that requires no effort from the reader to suspend disbelief.

Chris Horn is not the average quirky detective but a rather earnest youth who finds himself thrown into the intrigue of big business and Mid-Eastern politics. After he finds a body in the hold of a freighter that has experienced what could be the oil-world's equivalent of a nuclear meltdown, he is jockeyed into positions no young man should have to endure. In spite of his dealings with men (yes, a world of men -- for, after all, that's the way it apparently is) dealing with their demons to say nothing of cultural differences, politics and more, while their Texas wives mostly plan cocktail parties and pine for better things.

Yes, there is some romance in this novel -- a lovely thread I wouldn't want to have seen omitted, but it feels a little uncomfortable, as if the author suspects it is not essential to his story. It does give him the opportunity to introduce the lovely Eurasian Sarina, educated and brainy, into the mix.

Nevertheless, the real story here is the gritty one tinged

continued next column

MYSTERY MEETS continued

with truths that may well be very close to what is going on behind the scenes in boardrooms, government offices and cushy palaces around the world. This is a timely and pertinent book. If it should get into the hands of George Clooney, he may be able to do a lot with it on the screen.

ISBN: 1420833650 / **Publisher:** Authorhouse / **Date:** Mar 2005 / **Page Count:** 252

Carolyn Howard-Johnson's first novel, *This is the Place*, the winner of eight awards, is also of current interest because of the arrest of FBI's most wanted Warren Jeff's, a latter-day Mormon cult leader. Her practical and detailed how-to book on promotion, *THE FRUGAL BOOK PROMOTER: HOW TO DO WHAT YOUR*



PUBLISHER WON'T, won USA Book News' Best Professional Book award and the Book Publicists of Southern California's Irwin Award. Learn more at: <http://carolynhoward-johnson.com>.

FROM AMAZON SHORTS:

The Gold Coin

By Kathe Gogolewski

NEW RELEASE

★★★★★ (2 customer reviews)

Price: **\$0.49**

Length: 2,412 words, 10 pages



Charles Mossop <cmossop@telus.net> wrote:

The Gold Coin is a story everyone should read. In an elegantly simple and poignant style, Kathe Gogolewski weaves a touching and truly memorable tale of dreams, precious relationships, and self-awareness. This one is a real "keeper;" a story to be re-read and savoured many times over. A story that makes you think.

Charles Mossop

November 2006

You can purchase the short here for 49 cents:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Gold-Coin/dp/B000IB0JHK>

INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES FOR WRITERS

a monthly column by Raymond P. Gogolewski, Ph.D (also writes fiction as Ray Grant)

Our Uncle IRAs

Remember the old joke:

Knock, knock...

"Who's there?"

"I'm from the government, and I'm here to help!"



Well, in this case, it's really true. Uncle Sam has two brothers named Uncle IRA Traditional (IRA-T), and Uncle IRA Roth (IRA-R). They are designed to help each of us financially during our retirement.

Now, *IRA* is really *Individual Retirement Arrangement*. Each IRA is owned by *one* individual. IRA accounts are held usually at a Brokerage Company (e.g. TD Ameritrade) or a Mutual Fund Company (e.g. The Vanguard Group) and can be easily transferred *directly*

from one to another. The completion of a two or three page transfer form with an attached copy of the most recent monthly account statement will do it. An individual can own more than one IRA; however, one has to keep track of each, particularly, with regard to contributions and, when the time comes, distributions. Funds remaining within an IRA account at the time of the owner's death are transferred (an IRA owner should discuss the transferal options with the Custodian of the account) to the beneficiaries upon presentation of a certificate of death.

An IRA-T is a personal savings plan designed to provide income during retirement. With a traditional IRA, a person may be able to deduct some or all of the annual contributions. Deductibility depends on income, marital status, *and the extent of participation in an employer-sponsored retirement plan*. Without regard to employer retirement plan participation, the deductibility picture looks like this for a married couple filing a joint federal income tax return:

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) (\$000)

Calendar Year	Modified Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) (\$000)		
	Full	Partial	None
2006	<75	75 to 85	> 85
2007	<80	80 to 100	>100
2008	<80	80 to 100	>100

continued next column

INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES continued

For singles, full deductibility occurs when Modified AGI is below \$50,000 and no deductibility above \$60,000.

To contribute to an IRA-T account, one must be under age 70 ½ and must have taxable *compensation* – wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses, or net income from self-employment. *Compensation* does *not* include profits from the sale of property, nor interest, dividend, rental, or annuity income. If one retires early, one may or may not be able to continue to contribute depending on the source of one's income.

Maximum annual contributions are:

Calendar Year	Maximum IRA Contributions(\$)	
	< 50 Years Old	>= 50 Years Old
2006 & 2007	4,000	5,000
2008 & 2009	5,000	6,000

If one is older than fifty, the law allows an additional thousand dollars as a "catch up" contribution.

Funds within an IRA-T account are not taxed. Distributions (when you take money from the account) are taxable in the year one withdraws them. If one withdraws funds before age 59 1/2, one may be subject to an additional 10% tax (penalty for early withdrawal). One *must* begin withdrawing funds by 1 April of the year *after* one reaches age 70 ½. The IRS supplies tables detailing the annual *minimum required* distribution as a function of the owner's age (*Single Life*) and spouse's age, if married (*Joint Life and Last Survivor Expectancy*).

In contrast, for an IRA-R, contributions are *not* tax deductible. However, any distributions taken after five years from the year of establishment are *not* taxable if made:

- After one reaches age 59 ½.
- Because one is disabled.
- To a beneficiary after one's death.
- To buy/build a first home.

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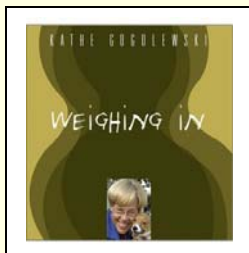
INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES (continued from page 4)

IRA-R distributions that are a return of contributions only are always tax-free.

It is possible to convert one's IRA-T to an IRA-R. Conversions are best done through a direct *trustee-to-trustee* transfer. If one is contemplating conversion, it's best to do one's homework first. Mutual Fund Companies and Brokerage Firms have experts that will guide one through the process. All it takes is a phone call.

For more information, visit www.irs.gov and download a copy of Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements... it's free and full of all the "gory" details!

Ray Gogolewski has been a Broker's and a Financial Planner's Representative for over a decade.



From Amazon Shorts: *Weighing In* by Kathe Gogolewski

The author writes about *Weighing In*: This short is a light-hearted romp through weight discrimination reversed... thin people....beware!

Many of us suffer from the struggles of weight gain. For a subject that is normally somber, I wanted to create an opportunity to laugh it off! (Oh, if only it were that easy!) To purchase, click here:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000HDZAXW/ref=sr_11_1/102-5486577-8896114?ie=UTF8

REVISION: THE ART OF ELIMINATION

WHEN SCANNING YOUR ROUGH DRAFT, BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS. IF YOU FIND ANY, YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO ELIMINATE THEM:

1. WEAK WORDS, SUCH AS: MOSTLY, KIND OF, SORT OF, REALLY, VERY, RATHER, SUDDENLY, ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT SEEMS LIKE, SO, WELL, ABOUT, SOMEHOW, SOMEWHAT, IN A WAY, EVENTUALLY, PRACTICALLY, BASICALLY
2. ADVERBS ENDING IN "LY"
3. THE PASSIVE VOICE: IS, AM, ARE, WERE
4. NEGATIVES: DID NOT GO=WENT
5. REPETITIVE LANGUAGE: SHE ASKED A QUESTION; THE TREE, AN OAK; THE DOCTOR, HER CARDIOLOGIST
6. SENTENCES THAT OPEN WITH IT: IT TAKES A GIANT TO REACH IT → A GIANT COULD REACH IT

LIMITED TIME OFFER
THE FICTION FLYER IS ACCEPTING YOUR ADS, NO CHARGE – SEND IN YOUR BOOK RELATED NEWS, SERVICE, EVENTS, OR OTHER PUBLISHING NEWS TO THE FICTION FLYER

Email Kathe at kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net

CONTESTS FOR FICTION WRITERS:

ReadMyWords.com short fiction contest, 2,500 words maximum. Awards: \$150 to \$25. Entry fee: \$5. **Deadline:** December 15, 2006. Info: Cedar Hill Press, PO BOx 24784, Cleveland OH 44124; www.readmywords.com.

The Writer In The Machine Fiction Writing Contest. No word count or genre restrictions. Awards: Dynamic prize pool, which means the more entries that are received the larger the prizes and the more of them (up to 80% of entry fees received). Entry fee: \$5. **Deadline:** December 31, 2006. Info: <http://writerinthemachine.com>

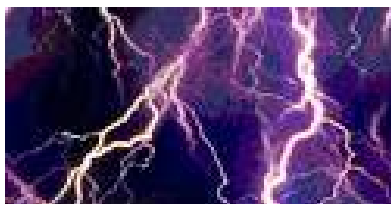
RWJ Fiction and Essay Contests. Short stories and personal essays up to 15 double-spaced pages. Awards: First place in each category will receive \$500, an RWJ shirt, an RWJ mug, and publication of winning entry. Entry fee: \$10. **Deadline:** December 31, 2006. Info: River Walk Journal Inc., Writing Contest, 641 Chestnut St., Irwin PA 15642-3535; www.riverwalkjournal.org/blog/

Mardi Gras 3000: Await the Neutral Hour, a collection of science fiction, fantasy and horror, call for submissions. Winners will receive an honorarium of \$20, a free copy of the anthology, a Mardi Gras 3000 Starter Deck and a booster pack of their choice. No entry fee. **Postmark deadline:** March 1, 2007. Info: Fandom Press, Attn: MG3K Anthology (Add "18804A" if a teenager, "1380G5" if an adult. This keeps submissions out of the slush pile), 7419 Ebbert Dr SE, Port Orchard WA 98367; or send SASE to CNW/FFWA Contest, PO Box A, Nort Stratford NH 03590.

Rejected Fiction Contest for fiction to 8,000 words. Five rejection slips must accompany each submission. Awards: \$200, \$100, \$50 plus publication in *The Rejected Quarterly*. Entries accepted December 2006 through **deadline:** June 30, 2007. Info: The Rejected Quarterly PO Box 1351, Cobb CA 95426; bplankton@juno.com; www.rejectedq.com/page6.html.

WRITING FLASH FICTION

By Ray Grant



Sweet BYTES

October's *Prompt* brought forth some *sweet BYTES* from our readers. Last month, I invited our readers to create a 64 word BYTE in response to the prompt: *Your pet, _____, is missing. You search. Where do you find it?*

Below are five BYTES...hope you enjoy them!

For Whom the Bell Tinkles

By
Donia Carey

Bippo, my pet cat, is gone!
I searched.
I posted notices with his picture.
Nothing.



A tip led to a fancy, gated community.

The search ended on McMansion porch, where Bippo, sporting pink collar with bell, lounged on a cushion. Throwing me a disdainful look, he turned tail and jingled behind a sugary female voice.

"Fluffy, time for your treat!"

Et tu, Bippo?

RG: A treat is always sweeter on the other side of the fence.

Lost Again

By
Gloria Watts

I missed my friendly meow greeting when I arrived home. Sassie wasn't waiting on the stairs for me. Somehow, the house seemed a colder place. I searched her favorite hiding spots.



Where was she?

continued next column

FLASH FICTION Continued

Meow -- faint -- distinct -- but from where?
Searching without luck, I crept into my bed feeling very guilty.

Early morning scratching.
Sassie in the laundry bin, head adorned with my pink frillies.

RG: A new outfit can make a lady feel good!

The Yellow Tabby
by John C. Mannone

My pet, Bob, yellow, sneaks out every morning dodging cars, racing around. Trees blurring by the side of his eyes all the way to corner. I catch yellow glints— shiny chrome edging tags.



It's hide-n-seek 'til evening by Sugar Maple, sweetened with yellow, laying-in-wait, as if for a mouse:

Spotted! By the stop sign in yellow car, purring I wait for my pet, Bob.

RG: A walk on the wilder side?

Simple Simon
By Erik Smetana

Simon is gone.
Simon is missing.
AWOL or something like that.
Woe is me.



Where was he last seen?
Not in the attic or the cellar by the furnace, where is poor Simon?
Oh no! Not in my room or under the couch.
What is that?

Outside?
Next to the birdbath,
with all his brothers and sisters.

A pet rock is a mischievous thing.

RG: One must keep one's eye on some pets lest they wander !

continued page 7

FLASH FICTION Continued from page 6

Arthur
By
Raymond Grant



"Arthur, where did you go?"
"Here, Arthur..."

He's so small...

*When I lost Alice, I never found her. You bring home
wayward creatures... you care for them. All you ever
want is some companionship and a little gratitude.*

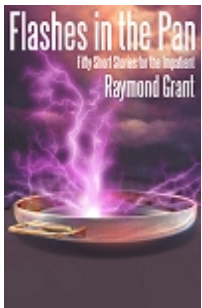
*There he is... Arthur.
Wait a moment?
There's another ant...oh no!
Hundreds of them!*

*How rude!
Arthur should have asked before inviting his family!*

RG: Some creatures should attend finishing school!

Well, dear readers, there they are...sweet BYTES. I hope you enjoyed them. Our thanks to Donia, Gloria, John, and Erik for their outstanding micro-flash stories.

FLASHES IN THE PAN by Raymond Grant



Flashes in the Pan, Fifty Short Stories for the Impatient, is a collection of stories, each ranging from four to less than two thousand words. The stories are grouped in six categories and designed to stir your imagination, bring a smile to your face, touch your heart, or stimulate your thoughts. A typical story takes

about five to ten minutes to read. So, when you're between tasks, delayed, looking for something to do, or when you're starting to feel exasperated, take five...read a story...and let your spirit soar!

Price: \$4.99 USD ISBN: 1-55404-357-3 Genre: Fantasy/SF - Fiction/Adventure Length: 94 Pages Available from Double Dragon Publishing at:

<http://www.double-dragon-ebooks.com/single.asp?ISBN=1-55404-357-3>

Reader's Micros and November's Prompt

By
Ray Grant



Our readers' responses to the *October Prompt* are high-lighted in my article, *Sweet Bytes*.

Prompt for January

This time, let's write a *drabble*. Our next *Flyer* will be published in mid-January, a time for resolutions and change. Therefore, a story **about transition** would be quite appropriate. Let's keep it positive and exactly 100 words!

AN INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS

CO-ORGANIZER OF THE FIRST MUSE ONLINE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

BY KATHE GOGOLEWSKI

1. What inspired you to create an online conference for writers – a free one, no less?

Oh, that's easy...to help writers. Over in the writing critique community, The MuseltUp Club, we had a discussion going on about writers' conferences and who has attended one. Well, it didn't shock **m**
The answers were what I was expecting:

- *can't afford the cost
- *too far to travel
- *have a disability and prevents me from attending

I thought how sad so many writers are missing the networking and interaction of meeting with various figures in the publishing world. It was at that moment, plus a few emails with Carolyn Howard-Johnson, my co-sponsor, that I decided to go ahead and plan one for that year. That same day I set up a website, emailed Carolyn with a few ideas, and off we went in search of Presenters.

This was in April, if memory serves me right, and in less than a month, I was inundated with emails from authors/publishers/editors and the like, to be a part of the conference. Without their support offering workshops based on their writing expertise, there never would have been a conference.

continued page 8



INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS continued from page 7**2. How many attendees and presenters were there, and how did you recruit them?**

Officially, I had 1136 people register for the conference, plus 91 Presenters. Some registered for the real time chat workshops and others joined the Conference Virtual Hall hosted by Yahoo. The recruitment wasn't all that hard, to be honest, just a lot of time hopping in every group I belong to and making sure to offer the details of the conference every so often. Whenever a new Presenter and workshop came on board, back I went to the groups to let them know who and what they were offering in the workshop. Releases were sent out, along with several Presenters placing the conference logo on their sites, and mentioning the conference in their newsletters.

3. What were some of the highlights of the conference? Can you describe some of your presenters and their classes?

Highlights...let's see...all of the chat workshops were amazing. Although I hopped on all of the chats to make sure the moderators were there then sticking around for a bit. It was impossible for me to remain in one chat for too long, unless I was the moderator. There were, at times, something like 15 chat workshops in one given day so I was all over the place.

Although the Yahoo group appeared to be saturated with emails (close to 4000 emails in that one conference week), a lot of helpful information was given by the Presenters. The highlight for the conference Yahoo board was the fact the attendees were told the group would remain until August 2007 (when at that point it will be deleted to make room for our 2007 Conference), so they can have an opportunity to go back in at their leisure and retrieve all of the handouts in the Files area, plus go over the emails they missed.

Another great aspect with the Conference Yahoo board was the fact that even though some of the attendees had not signed on with a certain workshop, they had an opportunity to read some of the emails between Presenters and attendees and eventually became involved in areas of writing they would never had thought to be of interest to them. So having the capability to 'peek' in conversations was great.

Two other highlights which I thought made a big impact were the two free downloads made available by Tri-Studio:

1) Piers Anthony

Download an eBook detailing an interview with Piers Anthony. Enjoy this lengthy interview by one of the greatest and most prolific science fiction and fantasy writers of all time. Questions supplied by members of the Museitup Club. Edited by Kathe Gogolewski. Free to conference registrants.



Click on the photo of Piers to access the ebook interview

Continued next column

INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS continued

2) Larsen and Pomada Literary Agency
Download a Podcast (Audio File) interview with Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada, owners of the oldest literary agency in San Francisco. This hour long interview is packed with information for writers. Interview conducted by Joyce Faulkner and Kathe Gogolewski. Free to conference registrants.



Click on photo of Larsen-Pomada to access audio file

As for some Presenters and their workshops, to be honest, all of them had such a different array of workshops, I'd hate to leave one out. The best thing is for anyone interested to find out who was present in the first conference to go and check out the conference site at:

<http://www.freewebs.com/themuseonlinewritersconference/>

I've left all the Presenters and their workshop info in there for now until I begin preparing for next year's conference.

4. What kind of offerings were there for attendees besides the classes?

Oh my, there were tons! Presenters did an amazing job preparing handouts to give to one and all. Some went as far as preparing very intricate detailed ebooks, which was an enormous hit with attendees. From the emails I received, they were absolutely floored by the Presenters and their offerings. They couldn't believe that a FREE conference would have supplied such informative and helpful handouts.

There were also random prizes offered each day during the week of the conference.

But again, I believe it was the continuing support from the Presenters in the Yahoo board that made the biggest impression on everyone. The unselfish offerings of their time and handouts were beyond anyone's expectations.

continued page 9

INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS

Continued from page 8

5. Do you feel the conference was a success? What kind of comments did you receive from people?

In my opinion, for a first-time online conference, it was a huge success. Almost 1200 people from around the world: Canada, United States Mexico, New Zealand, England, Africa, just to



name a few places I can remember right now, all gathered in one area for a week. Mind-boggling.

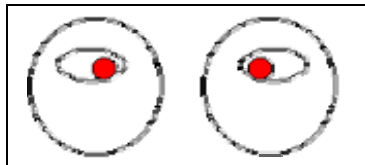
As for testimonials, I still need to sift through close to 1400 emails I received during and after the conference, but I've begun to place them in the other official conference workshop site:

<http://museonlineconference.tripod.com/>

If you link above then go to TESTIMONIALS you can read what's up there so far and their words will give you a very good picture of what the conference offered to them and what they came away with.

6. What was your role(s) during the conference?

Hehehehe...the nut who ran to each chatroom, then hopped on the Yahoo board to answer questions, then back to the chatroom again before answering tons of offlist emails for either support, questions about where is what, thank-you's...you name it, I was all over the board that week and my poor eyesight right now is proof of that.



Carolyn and I split the work; she did the promotion and I did the websites, setting up the timetables and schedules and anything else needed to be done, like answering emails from everyone. I'm not a martyr by far, but the reason I went almost solo in every area was for one big reason: I needed to see all the different areas involved in setting up the conference, what was needed, what form letters had to be set up, what feedback was coming in by Presenters offlist. All so I can better understand what each section entails and truly know what type of person it takes to head these departments for next year's conference.

7. Will you do this again next year?

Of course! Having all the form letters and what's needed in play now in my files, next year's conference will be

Continued next column

INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS continued

more stress-free for everyone. This will be an annual October conference. As a matter of fact, next year's conference will be held October 8th – 14th, 2007. The new registrations for Attendees and Presenters will be set up at some point this month in the conference sites.

8. What would you do differently next time?

Well, for one, I won't be the nut any more. ☺ I will have helpers for various sections. I have mixed reactions by many attendees on the Yahoo Board. Many liked it and others thought the emails were too much for them to handle so I'm fooling around right now with a few ideas, like a private forum instead of an email exchange.

Also, many were generous and donated some funds toward next year's conference so I am hoping to convince you to do a few more audio interviews for 2007. ☺ I think the Larsen and Pomada audio interview and the Piers Anthony ebook were just amazing.

(Editor's note: Kathe happily accepts the new challenge)

Another thing different for next year will be that I will have only two Presenters offering similar topics. This year, I didn't bother executing this rule because, to be honest, I wasn't expecting the success of the enrollments by so many Presenters. But next year, having only two similar topics will help me in promoting these Presenters on a bigger scale than this year.

9. Is there anything still happening in the conference "rooms" or the on the yahoo conference board?

Oh yeah. The best thing which has surprised many is that I will be hosting many more future workshops throughout the year. As a matter of fact, we just had Erica Miner in real time chat with her Journaling Workshop. She emailed to say how much she enjoyed it and will be back, not only for next year's conference, but also to do a follow up chat workshop, as well. This sentiment was shared by almost all of the Presenters.

The yahoo board, as I explained earlier on, is still open as a writer's board for questions and answers, and many Presenters and Attendees have been exchanging emails there.

I also have a conference forum, which anyone can join right now at:

<http://com4.runboard.com/bmuseconferenceforum>

It has several topic areas and an ongoing peer Website Workshop. Anyone who'd like to join is more than welcome.

10. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I'd just like to add how thrilled I was to get so many emails from both Attendees and Presenters, expressing their thoughts on how much they enjoyed the conference and to please sign

Continued page 10

INTERVIEW WITH LEA SCHIZAS continued from page 10

them up for next year. These emails are my motivators and you can be sure I'll try to come up with a few 'Mother Hen' surprises for everyone for next year's conference.

Also, just to go back for a second on the handouts and ebooks; although I didn't fully read everyone's ebooks and handouts, I did skim through them all to give me an idea what they were offering. I have to say I was truly floored by the time and effort put into them. Your ebook, *Kathe*, was like a whole semester of learning, along with several others. Most of the handouts, as well, had pre-conference exercises to try and better prepare for the real time chat workshops. So I guess this should go under the heading what I would do different next year: I'm going to have the deadline about two months before the conference in order to have ample time and allow the Presenters to send out their handouts way in advance compared to the one week I allotted this year. Again, live and learn. ☺

Before I finish I just want to remind everyone again to hop on over to:

<http://www.freewebs.com/themuseonlinewritersconference/>

and bookmark the site to make sure they don't miss the registration opening. Also, I invite them to check out the Presenters Bookstore and support the Presenters by purchasing some of their books directly through us.

Another site to bookmark is:

<http://museonlineconference.tripod.com/>

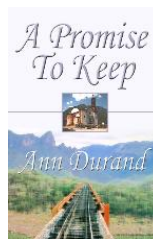
and make sure to check our CALENDAR EVENTS for future workshops to be held throughout the year. We're going to have a Chat Get Together on the 10th of November, plus a Christmas Online Party in December. All details are in the link above.

Lea, thanks so much for this enlightening interview! I really enjoyed it. And, I know that I, for one, am already looking forward to the next Muse Online Writers' Conference!
Kathe

WRITER WRY TOON



MARGIN



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[Lea Schizas](#)

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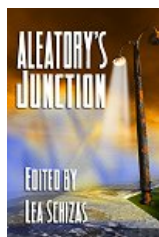
eBook Length: 354 Pages

Published: October 2006

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Web: www.scribalpress.com / Blog: <http://sylviaspeaks.blogspot.com>



Ms. McClain is a freelance writer who currently writes for the business periodicals published by Equal Opportunity Publications, Inc. on engineering and information technology. She recently wrote on hair care and styles for *Braids World* and life changes for *Strut*. She conducts workshops on money management, self-publishing, and freelance writing. She also reviews books at MyShelf.com

As an author, she has written a memoir titled *Skipping Through Life, The Reason I Am*, as well as a new book titled *The Write Life: A Beginning Writer's Guide to Writing, Money Management, Publishing and Marketing..*

She formerly wrote a weekly column, "Sylvia Speaks" for the *Dearborn Press and Guide*. She has been featured in *The Writer's Digest* on-line "Speak Out" section as well as WD's 2003 *Writer's Yearbook extra*. Ms. McClain has been a guest columnist and a contributing writer for the *Michigan Chronicle*, was quoted in *The Detroit Free Press and Detroit News* as a car care expert. She has written feature stories published by The University of Michigan-Dearborn in the universe

EDITING SERVICE BY BOB RICH

<http://bobswriting.com/editing.html>

I have been offering a freelance editing service since the middle of 1999, and have worked on several hundred books in that time. I have now decided to divide my service into categories, so that it can better suit the needs of my clients.

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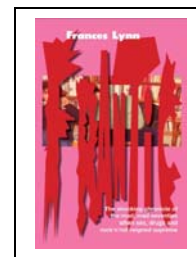
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Frantic by Frances Lynn

Publisher Eiworth Publishing

at <http://yourbookstore.eiworth.se/>

ISBN 0955367239



Seventies survivor Frances Lynn ruthlessly chronicles the psychotic highs and lows of Alice, a young English girl who escapes London at the tail end of the Sixties for a sojourn in San Francisco. She quickly discovers that the psychedelic world of tie-dye and joss sticks belongs to the previous decade when she becomes involved with a glitter daubed, sprawling theatre group, leftovers from the insular Haight-Ashbury crowd. Alice gets sucked in beyond her head, but just when the crazy theatre group's popularity overdoses, she goes over the top and is shipped back to London. By now, the early Seventies are in full decay, as is Alice. She continues her downward slide by falling in obsession with a fragmented member of the Art World. Their exhausting fling, fuelled by a cocktail of opiates is interrupted by repetitive bouts of insanity, like a San Francisco acid flashback. No holds are barred in this frantic saga of drug-fractured psyches - and it's hard to guess who will stagger on into the eighties.

Susan Stephenson <sueles@bigpond.net.au> wrote:

I very much enjoyed reading Joyce Faulkner's article, "Using Private Guides: A Writer's Eye" and found "What Every New Author Needs to Know" and "Foreign Rights" useful to me as a writer.

I think Caroline was spot on when she commented that Fiction Flyer views writing through a wide-angle lens. It's visually attractive, easy-to-read and even the ads are useful!

Susan
Susan Stephenson
Freelance Writer

<http://www.coffscoastwriters.com/about.html>



Quark Soup
Magdalena Ball

Forget the ivory tower and mushy sentiments. *Quark Soup* takes its cue from quantum physics and cosmology. Magdalena Ball is an award winning poet, novelist and editor of *The Compulsive Reader* <http://www.compulsivereader.com/html>. While the poetry is rich with science; *Quark Soup* is no treatise. The work is ostensibly about what it means to be a human, and tackles subjects like love, birth, and death; uniting the domestic with the esoteric. The work has been described as "finely crafted", "exciting", and "comparable in spirit to the early works of Picasso". For free samples, reviews, more information on *Quark Soup*, visit:

<http://www.compulsivereader.com/html/images/quarkindex.htm>

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Judy Boettcher announces Book One of *The Loffington Twins, Private Investigator Series, Awake, My Love*, and her newest release of Book Two, *Sweeter Than Honey*. Private Investigator, Brad Loffington, sniffs out an arsonist while his fiancée snoops into a suspicious office file. Private Investigator I Honey Loffington investigates a suspicious death and becomes her client's sole alibi witness."

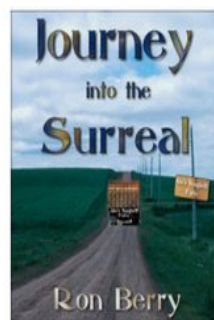
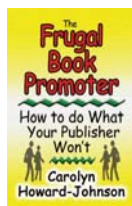


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JOURNEY INTO THE SURREAL

By Ron Berry
Journey into the Surreal is a collection of short, silly stories that will keep you laughing for hours. From Coffee break through the spaghetti farm series and on the coffee drinking tuna, it's one chuckle after another. Come with me as we take the most pugnacious trip through the grocery store, and then try to get home. This describes both parts of Nightmare after Breakfast. If these

stories haven't destroyed your appetite, read on to see how frustrated a vampire can get. Grab a cup of coffee as you journey through the surreal.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Philip Harris
Phone: 207-549-5339
E-mail: sundiskhermit@yahoo.com

For Release: October 18, 2006



Above: Co-authors of *Waking God*: Brian Doe and Phil Harris

Hallowell, Maine Setting For New Christmas Classic

Somerville, Maine-The new novel by Philip Harris, *A MAINE CHRISTMAS CAROL*, is a contemporary re-telling of the Dickens classic. The story opens at Hall-Dale High School in Farmingdale and continues in historic Hallowell.

"A MAINE CHRISTMAS CAROL," being released just in time for the holidays by Capri Publishing on December 12th, is more than a retelling of the Dickens classic. It is a contemporary look at modern society with a focus upon young adults. Set in Hallowell, Maine, we find old Scrooge replaced by 16-year-old TJ. Having lost his father in Iraq, TJ has turned to drugs in an attempt to cope with a world that he feels has spun out of control. TJ alienates himself from his family and friends; and his father returns in spirit, like Bob Marley of old, in an attempt to steer his son from the path of self-destruction. As one reviewer says of the novel, "In the guise of the well-loved tale it reminds us of the effects of modern life, its drugs, wars and poverty, on its people. It gives us the hope and optimism that is much needed in our contemporary world." This novel has received numerous pre-publication reviews that praise its style and content. The English editor of Arabesques Literary and Cultural Review says it is a "biting Christmas fable for our times. Read it, weep, and rejoice."

Other early reviews put *A MAINE CHRISTMAS CAROL* in the category of a "modern classic."

This is Mr. Harris' second novel to be released this year. The First, the controversial *WAKING GOD*, was co-authored by Brian Doe of New York and is the first of a trilogy. Called "epic in scope, a fast paced thriller," and most recently, "a new and sensational idea (that) causes humanity to question the fundamental principles of existence," *WAKING GOD* makes *THE DA VINCI CODE* "read like a church hymn" (Lewiston Sun Journal).

Currently residing in Somerville, Maine, Mr. Harris was raised in Massachusetts. He received his degree in Political Science from The American University in Washington, D.C. He has worked at every level of government including service as the assistant director of the Maine State Planning Office, a member of a White House Rural Policy Task Force and rural policy coordinator at the Federal Regional Council of New England. For the last six years he has worked in special education in New York and at Hall-Dale High School in Farmingdale, Maine. He is also a nationally syndicated writer for the online newspaper, The American Chronicle.

Capri Publishing is now taking pre-publication orders for *A MAINE CHRISTMAS CAROL* at capripub@aol.com (405-623-7619)

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