

The Wow Principles

e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Volume 10 No. 2 February 2014

#100 . . . and Counting!

By Dahlynn McKowen

This issue marks a milestone: 100 *Wow Principles*' newsletters in 100 months.

Honestly, we nearly forgot about this issue! Just this morning (Thursday the 27th), as I was waking up and thinking about my day, I realized that February only has 28 days! We've been so up to our eyeballs getting *NYMB...On Being a Mom* finished to send to the printer on March 3rd that all other PS business has been pushed to next week. It would have been quite hilarious to miss releasing February's newsletter; if we did, we would have ruined the record of 100 newsletter releases in a row.

Beginning on page two are comments received from last month's call-out to send a lesson-learned from a past *Wow* issue. If you click on the referenced cover image, you will be redirected to that specific newsletter so you can read it for yourself.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this call-out!

 Continued on page 2



In next month's newsletter

Finding your prose limp and listless? In next month's newsletter, Terri Elders will come to your emotional rescue. Even though Terri has never seen herself as a drama queen, a recent fan letter she received suggested that, indeed, she is. We'll learn more in March!



Published monthly by
Publishing Syndicate

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Contact Publishing Syndicate at
Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com



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Publishers/editors have preferences, and any insight into those leanings gains ground for us authors. The *Wow Principles*' newsletter offers valuable inroads for those of us who subscribe. Whether discussing transitions ("From Point A to Point B," Vol. 9, No. 8) or providing spelling/grammar input ("When Words Feel Like Wedgies," Vol. 9, No. 5), the newsletter provides us with information that is educational and can be universally applied.



Rebecca MacKenzie, Oconomowoc, WI

Each month I find stories about writers like me, submission calls and writing tips. Put them all together and it spells "Inspiration" for this writer. The warm and often witty offerings also make me feel part of a family of writers.

Nancy Julien Kopp, Manhattan, KS
kopp@networksplus.net and www.writersgrannysworld.blogspot.com

The interview in the October 2013 issue with Teri Rizvi, founder of the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, captivated me and I knew I had to attend the upcoming 2014 workshop. Reading those three momentous words, "You can write!" spoken to Erma by a professor reminded me of my first professional critique and the three words that changed my life: "You have talent!"



Becky Povich, St. Peters, Missouri
Writergal53@gmail.com and <http://beckypovich.blogspot.com>

I've been a closet writer my entire life. Without inspiration from my friends at NYMB, I would still be one. Now I want to share my heart, soul and memories through my stories. WOW! Dreams do come true and Publishing Syndicate made it all possible for me. I'm truly grateful.

Carol Commons-Brosowski, Plano, TX

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From Vol. 9 No. 6 “No Guarantees”: New to the publishing industry, I read my first volume of *WOW* and it kicked me into action. If Ken and Dahlynn could create a whole business, couldn't I write one decent submission? Why keep all my stories in my head waiting for the best angle, the right pitch, and the perfect timing. Forget that. Forge ahead and defeat procrastination.

Maddy McEwen, San Jose, CA

I look forward to receiving a *WOW* newsletter in my inbox so much that I skim over other emails, including bills, in my rush to absorb the latest writerly advice *WOW* imparts.

Erika Hoffman
Chapel Hill, NC

- I don't know what I don't know regarding
- grammar, punctuation, etc. Studying writing
- guidelines and Publishing Syndicate's news-
- letters is a priority for me.

Renee A. Hughes, St. Louis, MO

Ken's quote in this article resonated with me, “If you haven't tried, then you've failed.” (Volume 9, NO. 4, April 2013). For years, I only permitted a critique group, my husband and mother to read my humorous short stories. I yearned to be published but rejection held me back. I took a chance and submitted to Publishing Syndicate. “Congratulations on your story being published in a NYMB book!” I was hooked.

Stacey Gustafson, Pleasanton, CA

Website: “Are You Kidding Me?” at www.staceygustafson.com

“If You Haven't Tried, Then You've Failed” (April, 2013): This article was inspirational to me because it brought to mind my character, Mattie, and my first book. If it weren't for terrific advice like Dahlynn's, Mattie would still be sitting impatiently in a box on my closet floor. Mattie's now part of a three-book series.

Mary A. Berger, Hendersonville, NC

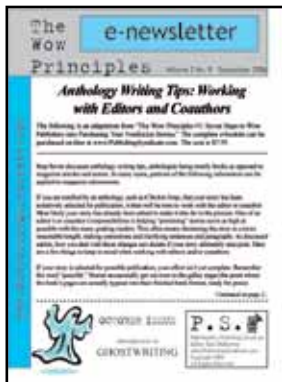
Author of *The Mattie Mitchell Humor Mysteries: The Trouble with Mattie; A Trip to the Water's Edge; and The Message*

Blog: <http://mattiesmysteries.blogspot.com> and ohminc@bellsouth.net



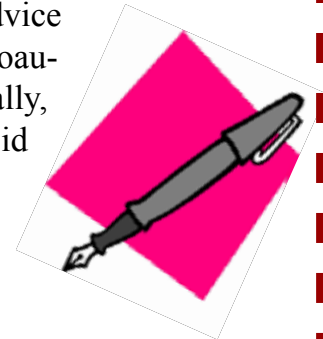
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To paraphrase Madonna, since most anthology contributors are women, “Mama, Don’t Preach!” I follow *Wow’s* advice (Anthology Writing Tips: Working with Editors and Coauthors, September 2006) to avoid moralizing. Additionally, it’s the best advice I can offer new contributors, to avoid scolding or lecturing the reader.

Terri Elders, Colville, WA
<http://atouchoftarragon.blogspot.com>



Valuable gift: that ordinary people matter and their adventures/tragedies are events that **OTHER PEOPLE CAN LEARN FROM**. Despite the worship of sports stars, drugged musicians, and famous whatever, in a democracy, ordinary people **SHOULD MATTER**.

Carole Spearin McCauley, Hanover, NH



The *WOW Principles’* newsletter is both informative and beneficial for writers of all genres. Interviewing Techniques (November and December 2006) was extremely helpful as I transitioned from years of criminal interviewing to a writer’s skill set. Asking the question and eliciting a right answer is germane to a writer’s quest for accuracy and truth.

Michael Brandt
El Dorado Hills, CA



That’s Michael Brandt, in the blue suit, doing his first a tandem jump. You’re never too old to try something new, so take the leap of faith and follow your dreams, whether it be writing or skydiving!

GET PUBLISHED!



SEND IN YOUR STORIES!

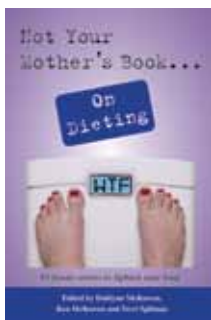
Updated 2/27/14

Not Your Mother's Book . . .

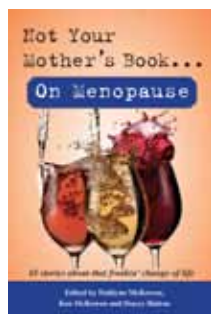
A new anthology for a new century!

Stories needed for 30+ new books. Must be written by people age 18 and older. Details and submission guidelines are on the PS website.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:



On Dieting: May 1, 2014



On Menopause:
September 1, 2014



On Military Life:
June 1, 2014

Submission guidelines at
www.PublishingSyndicate.com

OMG! My Reality! Youth Series

Time to get published!

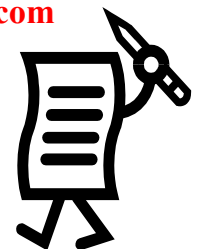
We are accepting stories for three *OMG! My Reality!* titles: *Kids*; *Preteens*; and *Teens*. Stories must be written by those age 25 and younger. Please share this information with everyone. Thanks!



Do you know a teenager who loves to write? Tell him/her to submit stories to the upcoming *OMG! My Reality! For Teens*. **Being a published author is great for college and job applications.** With the fall 2013 release of *Stand Up!*, an anthology with stories from 75 of the nation's and world's most amazing young activists, we'll be swamped with even more submissions. So don't delay! Send now!

www.PublishingSyndicate.com

Help young people become published authors!



My Story is Out: High School Years

Created by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo

The nation's newest anthology for LGBT teens!

We are looking for humorous, heart-warming, wistful and inspiring stories written by straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals **of all ages** about high school life. More info at www.MyStoryIsOut.com.