

The
Wow

e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Principles

Volume 6 No. 9 September 2010

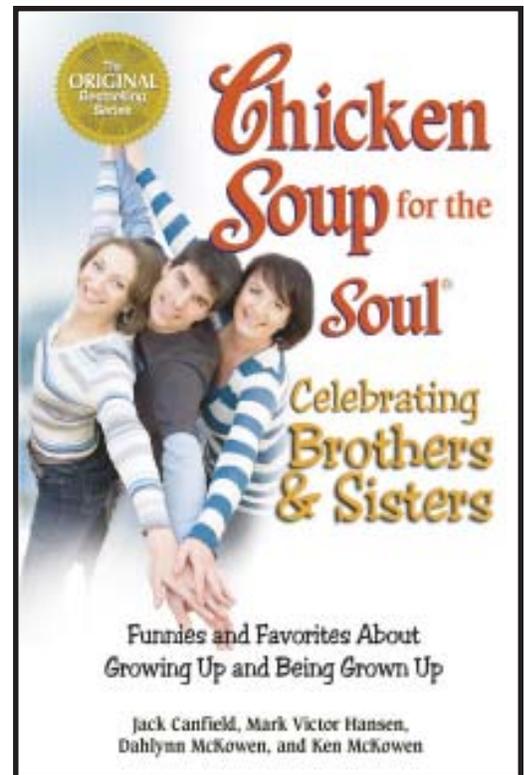
1, 2, 3: Easy as A to Z

By Terri Elders

In 2006, Dahlynn McKowen selected my story “Easter Bloomers” for *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Celebrating Brothers and Sisters*. Having my story published in the nation’s top-selling anthology series opened a new world of writing opportunities for me, opportunities and ideas I want to share with you.

I’d always thought of myself as a journalist. I’ve written articles and features since childhood, but they usually were about other people and their experiences, not about me and my own. I’d written pop psychology pieces, author interviews, book and concert reviews, and, because I’d lived overseas for a decade in four different countries, features about other cultures, on cuisines, traditions and holidays.

After my complementary copy of the sibling book arrived, I told my late husband Ken that I intended to publish at least 50 more such anthology tales. “That’s a lot of writing,” he said, “Good luck.” I suspect he doubted I’d follow through. But the day I received my contributor’s copy, Ken handed me a pair of black wooden bookends in the shape of an “A” and a “Z.” “You can put these on top of the entertainment center. I think 50 books are about what it will hold.”



Funnies and Favorites About
Growing Up and Being Grown Up

Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen,
Dahlynn McKowen, and Ken McKowen

P . S .

Published by *Publishing Syndicate*

Editor: Ken McKowen

Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com

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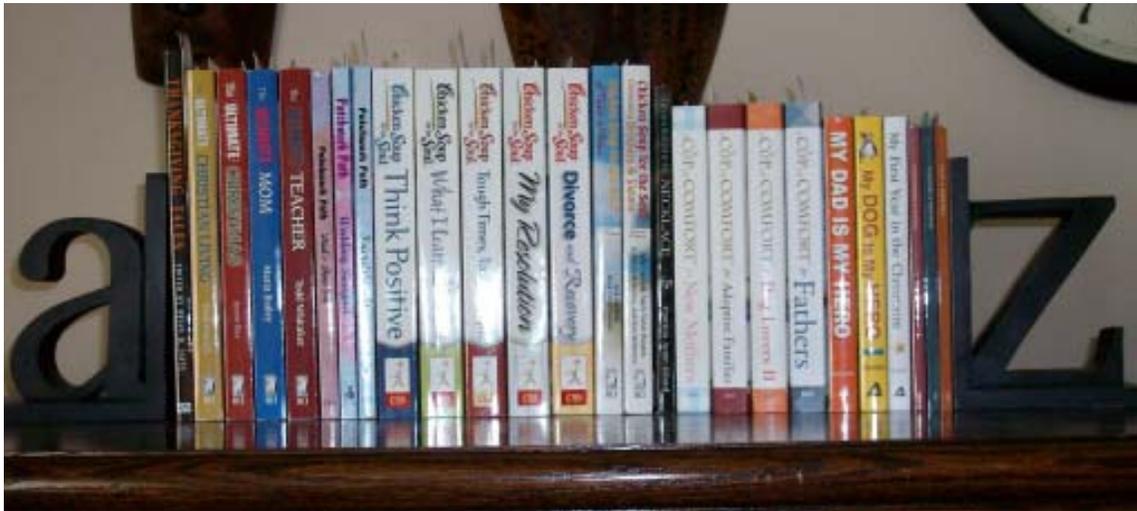
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1, 2, 3: Easy as A to Z

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Terri's famed "a to z" bookends and books (photo taken 9-18-10)

As of this writing, I have 28 books with 32 stories lined up between those bookends. Six books arrived this month, and two more will be published before year's end. I'm a finalist for half a dozen future anthologies, as well. That "fabled fifty" now looks within reach.

Because of my journalism background, I still look at how I can turn my experiences into marketable material, even outside of the anthology field. Where do I get my ideas? Sometimes they surface as I browse possible publishing markets. For instance, after I attended the University of Cambridge International Summer School in England this past month, I began to compile a list of possible places to send submissions. The trip was a wonderful experience; my courses included Victorian history and literature with an emphasis on Charles Dickens.

My list of possible markets began with what I call "the usual suspects"—anthologies that have accepted my pieces in the past. I reviewed their call-outs to see if I could match what they're looking for. Then I looked at magazine and on-line sites. On the next page is what I call my "possibilities." I don't know how many of these stories I'll actually get written, but it's clear my summer's experiences could fill my writing hours for at least an entire year.

Terri's market list begins on page three!



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Terri's List: Anthologies

Chicken Soup for the Soul

www.chickensoup.com/form.asp?cid=possible_books

- *Young at Heart*: returning to college at 73
- *Mothers and Daughters*: my mother fostering my interest in Dickens through *A Christmas Carol*

Dream of Things

<http://dreamofthings.com/guidelines>

- *Humorous Travel* or *Awe-inspiring Travel*: educational holidays
- *Making Waves*: people who inspire us



Patchwork Path

www.patchworkpath.com/index.php/submission-guidelines

Garden Path: the Cambridge botanical garden

Cup of Comfort

www.cupofcomfort.com/story-submission/call-for-submissions

(No current callouts, but always keep in mind)

Terri's List: Magazines and On-line Publications

Students Over 30

www.studentsover30.com/writers-guidelines/

Draft a query: attending University of Cambridge as an older student

Sasee

<http://sasee.com/submissions/>

- 12/10: Being Present
- 5/11: Growing Older With Grace

Skirt

http://skirt.com/contributor_guidelines

- 11/10: The Comfort Zone
- 12/10: The Leap Issue

The Smart Set

www.thesmartset.com/about/

Something Personal or The Grand Tour

Travelers' Tales

www.travelerstales.com/guidelines/

Women at Cambridge (The Cocktail Hour)

Christian Science Monitor

www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines

The Home Forum (My Victorian Summer)



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Terri's List: Literary and Travel Magazines Worth Further Browsing



Literary magazines

www.newpages.com/literary-magazines/

Travel magazines

www.freelancewriting.com/guidelines/pages/Travel/

www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/writer-guidelines.html

Terri's List: Giveaways!

Though these are not paying publications, both *Yesterdays*, an on-line magazine devoted to the past, and *Uncle Jam*, a quarterly magazine distributed widely, are special favorites and ones I have written for in the past:

Yesterdays Magazette

www.mypersonalcopywriter.com/submissions.html

Holiday story about Dickens' 22 Christmas stories and 5 Christmas books. It wasn't just *A Christmas Carol*.

Uncle Jam

<http://web.me.com/philyeh/UncleJam/HOME.html>

My story's already written and submitted—"A Dickens of a Summer"—and will appear in the October issue just in time for the Long Beach, CA, Comic Con. *Uncle Jam* began in that city and I wrote for it for years back in the seventies and eighties. It's like coming home.

In addition to writing about my Cambridge experiences, I've shared what I learned with two local book groups by facilitating discussions on each of the two Dickens' novels I reread, preparing for my class on "Criminals and Gentlemen: The Victorian Underworld in Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*." (My other courses included "The Victorians and Their World" and "The British Empire in Film and Literature." I'll continue to explore ways to turn all those notes into material for stories.)

At this point of my writing career, I may not want to stop at just 50 books. I can always buy a second set of bookends! And I encourage *WOW Principles* subscribers not to let their stories languish in a drawer or on a personal blog. As Dahlynn and Ken always sign off:

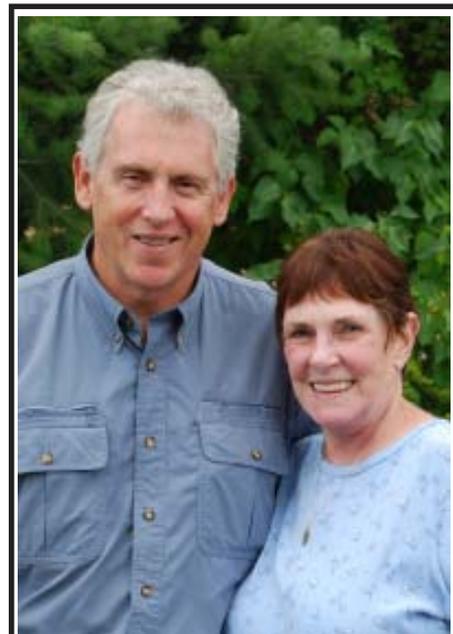
Go for it! Get published!

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1, 2, 3: Easy as A to Z: EPILOGUE

As Terri said, her first anthology was published in one of our Chicken Soup books. That was only four years ago and look what she has accomplished since! That's why we asked Terri to pen this month's article: we can tell you and show you and demonstrate to you and preach to you to write, submit and write some more, but to hear the same thing from someone who has actually done it from a quasi-beginner's point-of-view is more powerful.

Clarification: even though Terri was not a beginning writer, she was a beginner first-person anthologist. We strongly urge you to read her story again, digest it, think about what interests you, then visit each and every website she listed and spin a story to fit their call-out(s). Get those creative juices flowing!



*Ken McKowen and
Terri Elders*

You can follow Terri Elders on her website, <http://atouchofarragon.blogspot.com/>, befriend her on Facebook, or contact her at telders@hotmail.com.

— *Dahlynn and Ken*

Upcoming Interview



Dahlynn, Nelson and Ken

In August, we talked about introducing you to two successful people: author Terri Elders and publisher/author Nelson Ottenhausen. Both Terri and Nelson have proved that if you set your heart on a goal and work hard, you can make a living in the writing and publishing industry.

We're going to roll Nelson's in-depth interview over to next month. Watch for the October issue at the end of the month, as Dahlynn will be in Italy with a girlfriend conducting research for a future *Wine Wherever* travel book while Ken holds down the fort!

HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!

Chicken Soup for the Soul

www.ChickenSoup.com

Preteens: Deadline: October 31, 2010

Teens: Deadline: December 31, 2010

Young at Heart: Deadline: December 31, 2010

Mothers and Daughters: Deadline: December 31, 2010



Canada: Deadline: January 30, 2011

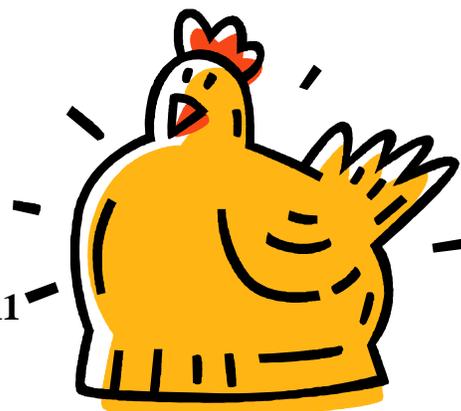
Devotional Stories for Times of Trouble: Deadline: Feb. 28, 2011



Brides and Weddings: Deadline: April 30, 2011



Marriage and Married Life: Deadline: May 30, 2011



Dream of Things

www.DreamofThings.com



Stories that Exemplify Leadership



Awe-inspiring Travel Stories

Coffee Shop Stories

Great Customer Service Stories

Stories of Forgiveness

Internet Dating Stories

Stories that Exemplify Teamwork

Stories about Great Teachers

Humorous Travel Stories

Advice You'd Like to Pass On to Others

Cubicle Stories: Life in the Modern Workplace

It's Only a Game: Lessons Learned from Playing/Coaching Sports

Making Waves: Stories about Role Models and People Who Inspire and Motivate Us

All *Dream of Things* anthology call-outs are open until there are enough stories to fill a book. So don't wait, as you might miss out on your chance!

Go for it! Get published! 