



November, 2017.

Volume XXIX. Issue 10.

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers

The COFW-sponsored Workshop on October 21 welcomed Larry Brooks to the Courtyard Marriott and fifty writers. At the end of a very full day, he provided his audience with specific guidelines on how to take their initial story ideas and put them into a workable structure to create a successful, engaging story.

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COFW Newsletter Editor: Sandra J. Kachurek

Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW) <http://cofwevents.org> is a non-profit professional association for romance writers and a local chapter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA) organization that offers monthly meetings. Since 1987, COFW has promoted excellence in fiction writing, encouraging writers to grow and gain knowledge in their craft. Members provide a networking system to share knowledge and support the goal of becoming published.

Volume XXIX. Issue 10. November 2017/1

Premise, Concept, Dramatic Arc and More

Larry Brooks Attracts Over Fifty People

Linda Rice and Aleta Dodson, workshop coordinators, brought Larry Brooks from Phoenix to Columbus for an all-day, intensive presentation and practice in zeroing in on the key elements of storytelling. His primary focus was on how to define and create a story's premise and concept and the power of his four-box story structure.



Larry Brooks presents key components for identifying and structuring successful stories.

Fifty-two people registered for the workshop, including fans of Larry Brooks, who drove in from Kentucky. Others came from Indiana, West Virginia and around Ohio. The generosity of COFW authors, who provided gift baskets, raised over \$240. A few nonmembers attending a COFW-sponsored event for the first time expressed interest in joining.

The Courtyard Marriott off the I-270 Columbus beltway was an accessible location with an attentive staff and a satisfying lunch was served at the tables, which provided ample opportunities to get to know one another. Linda set up dinner at Beer Barrel, just down from the hotel on Roberts Road, for a post-workshop dinner with Larry Brooks that seven people attended.

Many members volunteered their time and talents, and their efforts made it easy for coordinators. COFW is lucky to have so many generous members.

Winners of Raffle Baskets (to the best of our knowledge)



Julia Blaine Gold Basket: Susan Jessen

Julia Blaine Blue and Purple Basket: Susan Heino



Linda Rice, along with Aleta Dodson, introduces Larry Brooks to the full audience.

Kristin Higgins Basket: Susan Jessen

Julia Blaine Burgundy Basket: Theresa Lopez

Stacy McKitrick Basket: Sandy Kachurek

Shari Heinrich Basket: Linda Rice

Robin Gianna Basket: Andrea McConnell

Mary Buckham Basket, contributed by Jeanne Estridge: Laurel Gans



Julia Blaine, who donated three of her own baskets to the drawing, oversees the basket raffle.



The attendees participate in every aspect of the day's presentation.

Janie Mason Basket:

Andrea McConnell

Marcia James Basket:

Renae Jones

Susan Heino Basket:

Laurel Gans

Donna MacMeans Basket: Susan Heino

Katy Basket: Renae Jones

Abbie Roads Critique: Susan Jessen

New COFW Member: Erin Novotny

Writing as Tobi Doyle and Doyle MacBrayne

Erin Novotny writes contemporary romance and YA and hails from Huntington, WV. She admits to "stalking" COFW before she decided to join.

Q: How did you hear of COFW?

A: When I joined RWA, I looked for the closest physical chapter, but you guys are three hours away. When you had a conference with James Scott Bell, I drove over and attended. It was my first workshop on plotting and so very eye-opening.

Even more amazing was how wonderfully kind and helpful the members I met were. It was my first writers' conference, and one of the most positive experiences in my life. I've been stalking COFW ever since.

Q: Why have you joined COFW?

A: I'm at a point in my career that I really want to engage with other genre fiction authors. So I guess I'll be putting mileage on my Honda. It's very energizing to be around folks as dedicated and excited to be writing romance. I'm also extremely impressed with the level of speakers you have for your workshops.

Q: What are your favorite genres to write in and ages to write for?

A: My mind ALWAYS goes to Romance and I need to write the Happily Ever After. I'm also working on a Cozy Mystery. My friend, Rebecca Barray, and I are working on a Middle Grade manuscript, too.

Q: Where do you like to write and what is your writing regimen?

A: I am SO very fortunate that I can write at home. We've dedicated my sunroom as my "she-shed." On great days, I can write for four hours, uninterrupted. I always sit down with a plan. I already know the scene I'm going to write and its purpose, and maybe even a couple of lines of dialogue.

I crank up my music; sometimes, I burn a candle (All my hot alpha males smell like Bath and Body's Mahogany Teakwood.) and type. I don't worry about editing until later. Often, I'll edit in the late afternoon or evening.

Q: What or who inspires you to write?

A: I get inspiration from everything. Sometimes it's a news story or just people-watching. Sometimes I get a crazy idea about two people, just a scene, and I let it marinate for months before I can figure out what their story is. Attending workshops and meetings is always very

inspirational. I always go home energized and ready to attack my manuscript.

Q: What one writing goal do you hope to achieve this year?

A: At least one? Yikes. I tend to work on a few projects at a time and have a spreadsheet with my goals set on them. By the end of October, I want to have a polished novella for Carina's Naughty Bits Call called "Jury Duty." I'm writing another novella with Rebecca Barray, tentatively *Kong's Redemption*. I'll have the first draft to her by the end of October.

By the end of NaNoWriMo I want to have the first draft of the middle grade *Camp Chrysalis* novel I'm working on with Rebecca Barray. In the six months, I will totally infuse my romantic suspense novel with all the wonderful things I learned at the Larry Brooks workshop and hopefully send that sucker out to my agent!

Q: Who's your favorite author and favorite book?

A: Nooooo. There are too many to choose from. I read because I love the characters, the stories, and it really depends on my mood. Hands down. I love Jane Austen, but I worship JR Ward's wordsmithing in her Black Dagger Brotherhood series. Karen Marie Moning is another favorite. Tessa Dare/ Julia Quinn. When I'm feeling down and dirty--Lynda Chance and Cherise Sinclair.

Q: What are you reading now?

A: I just finished Sharyn McCrumb's *She Walks These Hills*. Tonight my treat is Tessa Dare's *The Duchess Deal*.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: I'm ridiculously happily married since 1991. We have three adultish children and are loving our first experience empty nesting. We've got a very hyper rescue dog named Jessie and three cats who allow us to feed them in exchange for the occasional vole left under our kitchen table. The hubs makes me laugh every day and we love to travel.

I belong to Kiss of Death Chapter, too. I'm helping with the coordination of the Daphne duMaurier Award this year. If you're interested in being a back-up judge--hit me up!

Contacting Erin Novotny:
tobi@tobidoyle.com
Tobi Doyle on Facebook and Twitter.
Website/Blog is tobidoyale.com



New COFW Member: Anne Chlovechok

A Determination to Succeed

A managing editor of a newsletter, community theatre director, actor and playwright, Anne Chlovechok is now adding COFW to her busy schedule.

Q: How did you hear of COFW?

A: I attended an event last winter to see one of my favorite authors.

Q: Why have you joined COFW?

A: To further my career as a writer and to meet like-minded people.

Q: What are your favorite genres to write in and ages to write for?

A: Romance and Mystery and Middle Grade.

Q: What is your writing regimen?

A: I work full time as a newspaper editor, am the mother of five kids, and direct and act in community theatre. So I'm pretty short of time. Therefore, discipline is very important to me. When I'm working on a book, I take at least an hour each night and write, even if I'm too tired.

Q: Where do you like to write?

A: In my favorite armchair, on my laptop.

Q: What or who inspires you to write?

A: A determination to succeed.

Q: What one writing goal do you hope to achieve this year?

A: To sell my book this year.

Q: Who's your favorite author and favorite book?

A: There are so many! Some include: Nora Roberts, Mary Balogh, Eloisa James, Jayne Ann Krentz/Jayne Castle/Amanda Quick, Jane Austin, Anne McCaffrey, Dan Brown, Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, Donna Leon, Keri Arthur, Lillian Jackson Braun, Jen Lancaster, Julia Quinn, Catherine Coulter, Stephanie Laurens, Rita Mae Brown, Lynsay Sands, Debbie Macomber, JRR Tolkien, JK Rowling, Linda Lael Miller, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and many more.

Q: Who are you reading now?

A: Mary Balogh.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: I'm the managing editor of a weekly newspaper in SE Ohio, *The Journal* and *The Noble County Leader*. I have five adult children and one grandson. I'm fixing up a 117-year-old house.

My playground is community theatre, and I write an original Sherlock Holmes every other year, which is produced in partnership with the Guernsey County Visitors and Convention Bureau.

I direct and act in a couple shows every year along with my children. I enjoy wine, coffee, books, Star Trek, family, friends, reading and chick flicks. I have several cats and a geriatric Yorkie. My life is busy and I like it that way. My big goal is to get my house done and keep it clean!

I look forward to getting to know you guys!

Contacting Anne Chlovechok:

I'm not as good about blogging as I should be (Hey, something's got to give!). But my blog is "Tips From the Shabby Housekeeper" at Blogspot.com.

My website is the newspaper's website--which I probably shouldn't have put down. LOL. I guess if I publish a book, I'll make up a website and FB page for my writing. Seems a bit premature now.



♥ *Welcome to COFW, Anne and Erin* ♥



Members donate 14 baskets to raise more than \$240.

Re-Releases for Stacy McKitrick

My Sunny Vampire

Jack VanAllen helps Sunny Petersen become accustomed to being a vampire while searching for the vampire who turned her illegally. Is it just a coincidence she resembles his long-dead wife?



Ghostly Liaison

Charlene "Charlie" Gentry was murdered, but her brother, Rob, thinks she committed suicide. Now she's stuck as a spirit with no way to communicate the truth until ghost-seeing Bridget Quigley comes into her life, or ... death.

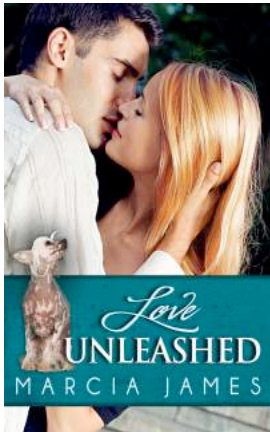
Charlie is sure Bridget is the key to the Great Beyond. She only has to get the lonely woman to believe and maybe do a little match-making in the process.

Stacy McKitrick fell in love with paranormal romance, decided to write her own and found her passion in life. She used to work in accounting. Now she spends her time with vampires, ghosts and aliens. Born and raised in California, she currently resides in Ohio with her husband and where they have two grown children.

For Stacy, being a member of COFW means connection. "Being a writer is a solitary adventure, which most times is quite blissful. But there are times when I need a connection with other people who understand what being a writer is like. COFW gives me that people-connection that can't always be found online."

Connect with Stacy: <http://stacymckitrick.com>





New Release by Marcia James

Love Unleashed

His best laid plans...

DJ "Rabid Ron" Hart has a grand scheme to win back the woman he loves. It involves an animal adoption fair, a goofy hairless dog named Charlie and an offer she can't refuse.

Her hidden desires...

Cara Wilson has fantasies she's never admitted, and her ex-boyfriend still features in her erotic dreams. If only he didn't keep his bad-boy urges so tightly leashed.

Tonight they'll learn that winning sometimes takes losing control.

This 50-page, contemporary romance short story features an R-rated reunion of a couple ready for a little "sexploration."



Love Unleashed

Also available in *Sultry Nights*, a set

of 22 hot, sexy reads.

Marcia James joined COFW in 1999 when "I moved to Columbus from Washington, D.C. Kind, helpful members, such as Becky Barker, Janet Ciccone and Karen Harper, were welcoming and willing to share their publication craft and business knowledge with me. I volunteered for conferences, contests and workshops, and served as president from 2000-2002. I learned so much and made close friendships that continue today. Whenever I meet an aspiring fiction writer, I always recommend she/he join COFW. Writing is a solitary profession but nothing can replace the support, education and motivation of a professional organization such as COFW."



Marcia had her wedding covered by *People* magazine and enjoys "researching" and plotting steamy love scenes with her husband and hero of many years. www.MarciaJames.net



New Release by Robin Gianna

The Spanish Duke's Holiday Proposal Christmas in Manhattan

Temporary Christmas fiancée—to future duchess!

When paramedic Mateo Alves unexpectedly becomes heir to his family's dukedom, he's asked to return home. But Mateo loves his New York career. So when sparks fly between him and beautiful ER doc Miranda Davenport, he sees a way to appease his family over the holidays ...

Miranda can't believe she's agreed to be Mateo's temporary fiancée, but as love child to the head of the wealthy Davenports, she knows all about troubled families. Can a magical Spanish Christmas together bring them both the happiness and belonging they deserve?



Robin Gianna joined COFW in 2004 as a naive newbie when it came to writing fiction.

"Being a member has been hugely important to my growth as a writer and eventual publishing contract with Harlequin/Mills & Boon. From my very first meeting, members were friendly and inclusive, always generous with their knowledge and happy to share their experiences and expertise with me. Writing is mostly a solitary endeavor, and it's easy to get discouraged. Spending time with other authors has always been the boost I need to feel excited again. COFW and RWA gives me exactly that!"



When she's not writing, Robin's life is filled with a happily messy kitchen, a needy garden, a wonderful husband, three great kids, a drooling bulldog and one grouchy Siamese cat.

Contact Robin: <http://www.robingianna.com/>

November 18th

Making COFW Stronger

Brainstorming. Idea Sharing.

Join Us.

Attend the November 18 COFW meeting as we engage
in small and large group sharing.

Voice your opinion.

Express your needs as a writer,
yet-to-be published and published.

How can COFW help you?

Be a part of the discussion.



Holiday Party

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Noon

Home of Robin Gianna

COFW Members Only

More info to come on COFW Yahoo Loop.

It's All About The ... Heroines?!

by Anna J Stewart

*This article was first used in the Sacramento Valley Rose RWA, July-September 2017 Newsletter.
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I don't know about you, but where romance is concerned, I've always ascribed to the adage: *I want to fall in love with the hero and be the heroine.*

For whatever reason, heroes have always been easier for me to write. This came as a complete surprise; it still surprises me. Maybe it's because I have a hard time getting myself out of the way when it comes to diving deep into my heroine's POV.

I have to remind myself, frequently, that not everyone would handle the same situations the way I would, and it's that methodic variety that helps to create well-rounded and diverse heroines.

For once, let's set our heroes aside (*sobs*).

I've written numerous articles about different heroes and why I love (or hate) them, but I don't address heroines as frequently. Maybe I'm paying more attention to that now that I've just gone to see *Wonder Woman* for the third time, but I'm definitely in a heroine mode these days.

I have two novellas and at least one full-length novel left to write this year in three very different contemporary venues: one heroine is a controlled almost OCD dollhouse store owner; one is a free-spirited, magically inclined farmer; and the other is a single mom of two struggling to restart her career as a photo-journalist.

I don't think I could find more varied characters than these three women unless I add in the others I've written in the last year: a nomadic doll artist with commitment issues, a throw-caution to the wind serial-killer chasing blogger with a penchant for justice, and a kick-ass psychologist on the trail of her best friend's killer.

There have been times I've attempted to write archetype-ally (I just made that word up) softer characters: waifs; for instance, I remember reading a lot of these back when I first began reading romance, historical romance in particular.

Personally, I can't pull that type of character off. I can't push myself far enough out of the way to surrender to what life is throwing at me (And yes, I know not all waifs do that. It's called character growth which is different from the TSTL syndrome--Too Stupid To Live).

I have one book (paranormal, not published) where I was convinced the heroine was supposed to be, well, a borderline victim. I have written the beginning to that story more than a dozen times and it never felt right; she never felt right. Until I went in a completely different way and gave her some serious spunk, enough that she entertained me and seriously confused her hero.

Ah, now we're onto something.

I try not to assign blame when it comes to my quirks, eccentricities and, well, let's face it--my character flaws. But when it comes to the types of heroines I write, I gotta go back to the early 1970s.

Some of the earliest books I remember reading were Nancy Drew and Trixie Belden, take charge teenagers who did what needed to be done. I grew up watching Lynda Carter save the world as *Wonder Woman*, and *The Bionic Woman* almost surpass *The Million Dollar Man* in both popularity and effectiveness. I can remember watching Princess Leia appear on screen, laser pistol in hand, fighting against the Empire every day of her life.

Never once did it occur to me that this was unrealistic or impossible; it simply was. And now, with *Wonder Woman* exploding into theaters this [past] summer, I sense a shift in The Force (for want of a better term).

A new generation is awakening, following the generations of Lara Croft, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and lest we forget Ripley from *Aliens* (one of my all-time favorite movies EVER) or Sara Connor from *The Terminator*. There's Nikita, Katniss, and The Bride from *Kill Bill*...the list really is longer than one might think.

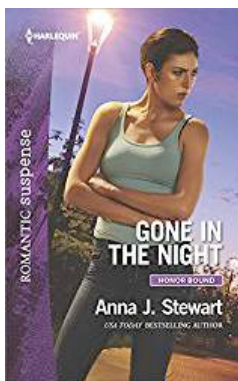
While we've been waiting for *Wonder Woman* to get her shot at the big screen (She was first created back in the 1940s.), I'm of the belief we needed to wait for the right team, the right director, the right actress, the right story. We've had a lot of great strong female characters to grab hold of in the meantime. But we still need more.

In the meantime, this is me saying thank you to those creative minds who gave me these examples of strength and fortitude and showed me my characters didn't have to settle or settle-back. They could be everything they've ever wanted to be if they worked for it, the same as we can as we put fingers to keyboard.

So, yes, in my down time, you will find me diving into a romance, losing myself in the story and falling in love with the hero.

But I'll also be joining forces with some amazing heroines. Hopefully one of yours!

Happy writing!



*A self-admitted TV and movie addict, USA TODAY bestselling author **Anna J Stewart** writes sweet to spicy romances across the genres. Visit her online at www.authorannastewart.com for more information, on her workshops, editing services and to join her mailing list.*

On the Craft and Business of Writing

♥ Fiction Plotting with COFW Members

- ~First Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
- ~Panera Bread, 2374 Taylor Square Drive, Reynoldsburg, 43068.
- ~Sharing and discussing plots. Giving constructive advice on improvements.
- ~Between meetings, attendees stay in touch and ask questions via cofwplot@yahoogroups.com

♥ Financial Aid Assistance for COFW Events

1. COFW maintains a fund to be used by qualified applicants for the payment COFW Chapter Workshops, Conferences, other events or COFW membership dues.
2. Funding is obtained from member donations and is kept separate from RWA chapter funds.
3. To qualify for an award from the fund, an applicant must be a member of COFW for one full calendar year prior to applying. The applicant will submit the required form stating their need for assistance to the Chapter President. The letter shall contain a statement of the applicant's financial need as well as a description of the applicant's serious pursuit of a writing career.
4. An individual needing financial assistance may be awarded up to \$75.00 from the fund once every three calendar years.
5. Funds are to be distributed by the Board on a first-come, first-served basis; "first" being defined as the first applicant to submit a letter to the Board following the guidelines.



Larry Brooks makes his presentation specific to COFW.

6. Funds shall be disbursed only to the extent there are available funds and qualified applicants.

There shall be no limit to the number of applicants who receive funds in any year.

7. Requests will be reviewed by the Board President and Treasurer and are confidential.

2017 COFW Leadership

Executive Board

President: [Jenessa McRoy](mailto:jenessahl@gmail.com) (jenessahl@gmail.com)

Secretary: [Jeanne Estridge](mailto:jeanne.estridge.author@gmail.com) (jeanne.estridge.author@gmail.com)

Treasurer: [Stacy McKitrick](mailto:semckitrick@aol.com) (semckitrick@aol.com)



Committees

Programs Chair: [Sheri Adkins](mailto:sherirenaeadkins@gmail.com) (sherirenaeadkins@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: [Sandy Kachurek](mailto:sandrajkachurek@gmail.com) (sandrajkachurek@gmail.com)

Membership Chair: [Linda Rice](mailto:lindarice05@gmail.com) (lindarice05@gmail.com)

Social Media Chair: [Andrea McConnell](mailto:fyrefly93@gmail.com) (fyrefly93@gmail.com)

Incentives: [Julia Blaine](mailto:julmassie@aol.com) (julmassie@aol.com)

Ignite the Flame Contest Coordinators

[Nancy White](mailto:nancywhite0529@gmail.com) (nancywhite0529@gmail.com)

and

[Jane Conner](mailto:djconner@earthlink.net) (djconner@earthlink.net)



Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254

Dayton, OH 45424

<https://twitter.com/COFWriters>

<https://www.facebook.com/COFWriters>

Meeting Days:

The first "teen" Saturday of the month.

The October meeting will be on the 21st of October.



Dues:

Renewing Members Between December 1 and January 31: \$25.

All New Members and Renewing Members after January 31: \$30.