



COFW

*Professionals, Writers & Friends Perfecting the
Happily Ever After*

October 2021

Issue 10

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW) <http://cofwevents.org> is a non-profit professional association for romance writers 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.

2021 Leadership Board

President: Bernie Miller

Secretary: Shari Heinrich

Treasurer: Michelle Orloff

Non-Board Positions

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Programs Chair: Vacant

Education Chair: Vacant

Social Media Chair: Vacant

Incentives Coordinator: Vacant

Ignite the Flame Contest Chair: Vacant

Monthly Meetings Facility Coordinator: Vacant

Equipment Inventory Coordinator: Vacant

Meetings

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month. Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30. Location: Check www.cofwevents.org

Dues

Members: \$50

- Dues run January to December
- Membership fee waived for new member through Dec 31, 2021.

Follow COFW

Twitter <https://twitter.com/COFWRiters>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/COFWRiters>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cofwriters/>

Closed Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: November 13th, 2021; The Storyteller's Toolkit with Patricia Sargeant

The Storyteller's Toolkit is a plotting presentation that applies to all fiction genres and to authors in all stages of their publishing careers, particularly beginner and intermediate storytellers. The presentation addresses:

- Story premise: Developing your story idea.
- High concept: Adding layers to your story premise to make it more marketable.
- Conflict: Enhancing your story premise with conflict.

Patricia Sargeant is the national best-selling, award-winning author of more than 20 novels. Her work has been featured in national publications such as *Publishers Weekly*, *USA Today*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Suspense Magazine*, *Mystery Scene Magazine*, *Library Journal* and *RT Book Reviews*. She has also been interviewed on podcasts including Destination Mystery with Laura Brennan, Conversations LIVE! with Cyrus Webb, Read You Later with Lasheera Lee and Katara's Café with Katara Johnson. Visit her at <https://patriciasargeant.com/>.

Business meeting at 12:30 pm, Discussion at 1:30 pm
Forger Tavern: 1375 Bethel Rd. Columbus, OH

Our meeting will also be held via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. The password will be posted on the Central Ohio Fiction Writers Group Facebook Group.

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - East

Need a boost with a story idea that has yet to see words on a page? Can't get your protagonist out of a hole you've written her into? Not sure whether the antagonist is antagonizing enough? Consider stopping by the COFW Fiction Plotters group. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Taylor Square in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068.

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: fyrefly93@gmail.com

Saralee Etter: saralee_etter@yahoo.com

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - West

All the same fun as above but located in Huber Heights. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Panera Bread off I-70 exit 36.

If you have questions contact:

Jeanne Estridge: jeanneestridge@gmail.com

Rachel Dye: juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

The mission of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers is to promote excellence in romantic fiction, help writers become published, and establish careers in the writing field.

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2021 12:30 PM

On Zoom &
Live at Hope Hotel
(10823 Chidlaw Rd, Dayton, Oh 45433)

12:00 Networking

12:30 Call Business Meeting to Order

I.Welcome Visitors & Round Table: introduction of members and visitors.

II.Attendance/Works in Progress

- a. **Linda**—trying to write 6K words this week. So far at 700.
- b. **Becky**—troubles with the audio book. In production well past narrator finishing it.
- c. **Rachel**—tried Kindle Vella (serial or episodes) this week, doing short story, writing under a pen name, a paranormal that's been living under her bed, so she decided to make use of it. Very easy to upload, no cover needed. She made 13 cents. Episodes must be previously unpublished and must be between 1K and 5K. First 3 episodes are free, *then* have to pay to unlock the next ones. Length dictates the number of “coins” needed to unlock them. Some sort of filter system, and she has not yet gotten to the romance, so she’s not sure if the sections will get blocked. Fan fiction is prohibited; even references to other characters may trip the filter and keep it from uploading. Drawback: no way to advertise ON amazon. Paranormal seems to be the best-selling work.
- d. **Jan Irvin**—work in progress. Writes under JE Irvin. *Broken* is now available. Her 19-year old is an investigator, and she will have the “Byrd Files”

III.Reports

1. **President Bernie Miller:** nothing to report on.
2. **Secretary Shari Heinrich:** September minutes are accepted as published in the newsletter.
3. **Treasurer Michelle Orloff:** Off at a retreat. Shari will add the figures from the report in Google groups, as she didn’t have a web connection to pull them up.

At the end of September our current assets were as follows:

- Checking = \$3,704.80
- PayPal = \$795.18
- Available cash = \$4,499.98
- Balance in the Perseverance Fund = \$1,519.96

Changes to account balances this month:

Payment of \$1,541.28 to RWA for disaffiliation.

Income of \$145 for our October online class (50% will be due to the instructor).

Membership for September remained at 33 members.

4. **Programs Chair Jeanne Estridge:**

- October—Sexual Tensions, Jeffe Kennedy

- November— Storyteller's Toolkit, by Patricia Sargeant: The presentation will diagram premise, high concept, and conflict in a movie to demonstrate how the three elements work together to make a compelling story.
- January 2022— Priscilla Oliveras, potentially, and to be confirmed, topic still TBD based on the Facebook poll. Shari needs to remind Bernie to coordinate with Priscilla.
- February 2022—Brian Meeks—optimizing Amazon ads.
- March 2022—Brainstorming session.
- Potential program, from Miami Valley Writers Network, April Barnes Wilson, writes Bodyguard romance. Jeanne will reach out to her
- Jeanne asked for names for presenters. Let her know. Suggestions:
 - Donna MacMeans (she was on youtube as part of Patricia's channel)
 - Miami Valley Writers network, motorcycle romance (set up a new pen name, now making 5 figures per month! Janice Whittaker. She writes a book a month! 3 different pen names)

5. **Ignite the Flame**—contest not being held this year.
6. **Education Chair**—position vacant.
7. **Newsletter Editor Rachel Dye:** Jeanne Estridge will write the program recap for the newsletter.
8. **Incentives—Julia Blaine**
 - a. Rachel turned in 7th novel
 - b. Stacy—started redraft on Ghostly protector
 - c. Jan—poem came out in compilation; new book out
 - d. Tim—has an ending for his current WIP; and doing a book festival up in Elyria next weekend.
 - e. Jeannie—survived losing her cover designer, who no longer does custom covers.
Deranged Doctor Designs will be her new company (out of Poland)
 - f. Shari—Worked on a new first chapter for Queen of Wand and will be pitching it next Saturday at the Dark Sire workshop up in Dover (Dover public library)
 - g. Linda—Has been studying editing
 - h. Julia—current book is Monsters Under the Bed—writers block hit. But last night had an idea.
 - i. Bernie—first ever book club at Lithopolis library (it's in an old castle), speaking to folks who read his book!
9. **Social Media (plus spreadsheet):**
 - . **Spreadsheet:** Rachel won the September spreadsheet challenge, and thus retains Eddie the emu. Jeanne is running away with October at the present.
 - a. **Plotting:** 2nd Monday of the month (Zoom at 7), and 3rd Tuesday, we do plotting (Live at Panera Bread in Huber Heights off 202, 5:30 dinner if you want, plotting at 6)

IV. Unfinished Business

1. Shari has been working with our developer, Rachel, on getting the website ready for new member joins. As well as updating it for security.

a. DreamHost is our new host—Shari and Bernie coordinated to make the purchase, and handed off details to our developer. Developer will work on it as she can. First step, to port over the old website and some of the content. A later step would be to add the Join option.

b. Buy links in the newsletter: Shari read the language about the “buy link,” which is actually specific to 501(c)(3); she thought she’d gotten it from Ohio Revised Code, but after the meeting she realized the site was <https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/common-501c3-rules-regulations/>:

“Private benefit. Organizations that apply for tax-exempt status cannot serve the private interests, or private benefit, of any individual or organization besides itself past an insubstantial degree. Therefore, a nonprofit may not permit any of its income or assets to benefit insiders, such as board members, officers, directors and important employees.”

Our discussion is that the newsletter is only for members.

The next question was whether COFW is a C6 or C3. Shari owed which designation COFW is, and would include it in the minutes.

Post meeting, Shari performed a State of Ohio business search. We are listed as “CORPORATION FOR NON-PROFIT”

There is *no* designation of C6 or C3 on the COFW filings with the State of Ohio.

For a discussion of the differences, see <https://nonprofitlawblog.com/comparing-501c3-vs-501c6-for-nonprofit-startups/>

2. Nominating Committee—volunteers? Volunteers for other board positions.

Nominating committee will be Jeanne, Janice, and Shari. They will contact members to fill out the vacant positions, needing to accomplish this preferably by the November meeting.

- . President: Bernie would be willing to be nominated
 - a. Treasurer: Stacy would be willing to be nominated
 - b. Secretary: Shari would be willing to be nominated
 - c. Newsletter Editor: Rachel would be willing to be nominated (but, is anyone else willing? She is stretched thin with her novel deadlines).
 - d. Programs Chair: **vacant**
 - e. Education Chair: Janice Beckett
 - f. Social Media Chair: **vacant**
 - g. Ignite the Flame Contest Chair: Jan Irvin
 - h. Workshop/Event Chair: **vacant**
 - i. Membership Coordinator: Linda will resume duties.
 - j. Incentives Coordinator: Julia will resume duties.
 - k. Monthly Meetings Facility Coordinator: **vacant**
 - l. Equipment Inventory Coordinator: **vacant**
3. Winter Party—Party is typically the first Saturday in December, making it 12/4/21.
Either The Forge Tavern or Bernie’s Columbus shop.

V. New Business

1. We need presenters for 2022. Jeanne covered this during Programs section.
2. Open the floor for new business. None.

Adjourned at 1:21 pm.

At 1:30 join us for Sexual Tensions, led by Jeffe Kennedy. The following link is to be used only by COFW members and is not to be shared. The amount of time it is available is dependent on space, as Zoom does not provide much storage space.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/PN-a5L5tyd1WBsy6Se7N5HLdGb20ZcLabX6Eo1Wb1B0jM1QSZHOH2dptMUgqvU-x.C0Bh1t_STjhk0-1B Passcode: #b#8X6e@

A Call for Volunteers!

Seeking Volunteers

COFW needs to round out the chair positions, many of which have gone vacant this year or become vacant because current chair needs a breather. Can you step up for 2022? Your term would run 1/1/2022-12/30/2022.

- Education--vacant
- Programs--vacant
- Social Media--vacant
- Membership, Linda Rice (willing to continue?)
- Incentives, Julia Blaine (willing to continue?)

A Recap of Jeffe Kennedy's “Building Romantic and Sexual Tension (Getting Away from Wham Bam Thank You Ma’am”

by Jeanne Estridge

Jeffe Kennedy is a fantasy and erotic romance author who has published dozens of novels across five different series. Her first sale was a BDSM version of *Beauty and the Beast*.

She appeared at Central Ohio Fiction Writers October 16, 2021 meeting to talk about writing sexual tension.

According to Jeffe, sexual tension is all in the mind.

Bullet points from her talk are as follows:

- Definition of sexual tension: everything leading up to actual fulfilling, mutually orgasmic intercourse
- Full intercourse implies:
 - Emotional intimacy
 - Commitment
- *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer, was partly successful because it was fraught with sexual tension but had no physical contact.
- Orgasmic foreplay is still building up to the ultimate “deed.”
 - Can range from sweet to scorching
 - Can depend on pairings, multiples, etc.
 - You, the writer, gets to decide what “ultimate” is
 - For example, in a story about telepaths, sharing thoughts during intercourse might be the definition of ultimate
- Conflict:
 - Is both internal and external
 - Should create barriers to your couple having sex
 - You don’t have to have both internal and external but it increases the tension if you do
 - Internal Conflict
 - Arises from emotion and beliefs
 - Emotional wounds prevent him or her from consummating the relationship
 - For example, fear of rejection (though that one’s kind of weak)
 - External Conflict
 - Outside of character’s control
 - May be dependent on genre
 - Examples:
 - A serial killer may be chasing them
 - He’s an ogre, she’s a human
 - Internal and External Conflict
 - Should contain strong reasons why they can’t have sex.

- Can apply to one or both characters
 - Can't be resolved by a conversation
- When does sexual tension begin?
 - Spark comes to life from first moment, no matter how denied or buried
 - Dance of sexual tension between the characters should echo and be a metaphor for the act of sex itself.
 - Starts slow
 - Gradually builds
 - Ends in orgasmic climax
 - Non-sexual interplay should contain sexual subtext
- Use Language to Build Sexual Tension
 - Build up to sex—should be a kind of metaphorical sex play
 - Sensual language becomes more:
 - Fluid
 - Lyrical
 - Sensual
 - Putting the wordless into words—physical, emotional, spiritual
 - Grammar rules go out the window.
 - There's no place for complete sentences, let alone complex, compound ones, in the throes of passion
 - Physical or metaphorical
 - Cadence—rhythmic pacing of the language
 - Flowing instead of short and choppy
 - Rhyme
 - Consonance
 - Assonance
 - Often internal rhymes
 - More subtle
 - More visceral
 - Not kiss/miss/hiss but kiss/exorcise/electric
 - Connotation
 - Words had denotative definitions but their connotations are what make them powerful.
 - Use words that arouse pleasure and also convey character
 - Use words we associate with wonderful feelings
- Building Longing
 - Pheromones
 - Other body chemistry
 - Physical appeal
 - Humor
 - Intelligence
 - Wealth
 - Kindness
 - The more they long to be together, the harder they'll work to overcome the obstacles.
- Fiction vs. Reality
 - Sometimes there's liking but no chemistry
 - Sometimes there's chemistry but the relationship is abusive and dysfunctional
 - There needs to be more than physical attraction to build longing

- Avoid the trite and clichéd—full breasts, blonde hair
- Connection + Conflict = Tension
 - Prolonging consummation/foreplay
 - Romance is a chess game—we know how it ends. The interesting part is watching the strategy play out.
 - Secrets
 - Keeping a secret requires:
 - Attention
 - Energy
 - And, frequently, lying
 - Lies require more lies, which create a trap
 - Sharing/opening up is a form of intimacy
 - Anticipation
 - Sexual tension is a kind of suspense—will they/won't they?
 - Suspense keeps readers turning pages to find out what happens next
 - When writing, don't skip over your sex scene or go back and write it later—it's part of your character development.
 - Sex should never be gratuitous; it should be integral to your story/character development
 - Good sex and romance are about personal freedom, transformation and the journey
 - Story arc=Character arc
 - Think in terms of Maslow's Hierarchy of Need

Transcendence
 Self-actualization
 Aesthetics
 Knowledge and understanding
 Esteem
 Belonging and Love
 Safety
 Physiological

- Intimacy of sex should play with the change in your character.
- Sex is a hugely emotional experience
- Whatever emotions are tied to the internal conflict should come into play during sex

Q&A

Which of your books has your favorite sex scene?

- *The Arrows of the Heart: The Uncharted Realms, Book 4*

What book would you recommend as an example of a great sex scene?

- *Naked in Death* by Nora Roberts—great pacing!

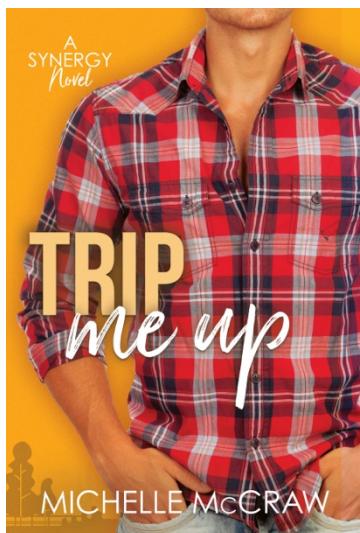
Please tell us more about Cadence:

- Jeffe used the example of the word butterfly. In Spanish it's *mariposa*, in French *papillon*

- Those are all beautiful words we love the sound of.
- In German, it's Schmetterling, which is harsh and discordant.
- Go with butterfly, mariposa or papillon, not Schmetterling!
- Look for a shift in language as the writer transitions from daily life to sex scenes.

Final observation: Witty banter is a metaphor for foreplay.

New Releases!



Trip Me Up by Michelle McCraw

A farmboy and a techie meet up on tour. They couldn't be more different. But together, they're hotter than an overclocked computer chip.

Nerdy computer scientist Sam didn't mean to bring her dog to her mother's stuffy fundraiser. Okay, she may have needed the excuse to get back to her research, but she doesn't mean for Bilbo Baggins to escape. And she *really* doesn't count on a sexy lumberjack rescuing him from a socialite's stiletto heel.

Flannel-wearing fantasy writer Niall is bewitched. The owner of the dog he's just rescued has a special kind of magic - ethereal beauty plus a brilliant mind. Niall falls faster than a tree in an enchanted forest, especially after his writer's block disappears.

Thrown together on a joint book tour, it doesn't take long for Niall and Sam's red-hot chemistry to ignite. But Sam has a secret, one that'll rip apart everything Niall values. One that will chop down their budding relationship and might blue-screen her dreams, too.

Trip Me Up is an opposites-attract, road-trip romantic comedy featuring a geeky heroine, a sexy, farmboy writer, and a limelight-stealing dog. It can be read as a standalone and is the third book in the Synergy series.

Coming soon!

COFW has a goal sheet!



Want to track a daily word count and compete with your fellow COFW members for the highest point total? Add your name and goals to our Magic Spreadsheet here:
<https://bit.ly/2Wprwt0>

October Winner: Jeanne Estridge
The winner gets Eddie!

