



November, 2018.

Volume XXX. Issue 10.

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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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.

♥ Central Ohio Fiction Writers ♥
Proud Chapter of the Romance Writers of America®

2018 Leadership

President, Jenessa McRoy <jenessahl@gmail.com>
Secretary, Susan Heino <susan_gee_heino@yahoo.com>
Treasurer, Jeanne Estridge <jeanne.estrIDGE.author@gmail.com>

Program Chair, Aleta Dodson <aletawrites@hotmail.com>
Newsletter Editor, Sandra J. Kachurek <sandrajkachurek@gmail.com>
Membership Chair, Linda Rice <lindarice05@gmail.com>
Social Media Chair, Andrea McConnell <fyrefly93@gmail.com>
Incentives, Julia Blaine <julmassie@aol.com>

Meetings

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month.
Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30.

Location

Norwich Township Building
5181 Northwest Parkway. Hilliard, OH 43026

Dues [Must also join RWA.]

Renewal before January 31: \$25.
After January 31: \$30.

Follow COFW

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

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

Closed Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254
Dayton, OH 45424

November 10

ALLIE PLEITER

THE CHUNKY WRITING METHOD

**MORNING WORKSHOP AND AFTERNOON WRITING TIME
FOR NANO WRITING PROJECT**

Clintonville Woman's Club

3951 N. High St., Columbus 43214

9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Registration Opens: 9:00 A.M.

Members: \$45. Non-Members: \$49.

Bring laptops, extension cords and enthusiasm.

http://www.alliepleiter.com/thechunky_method.html



Holiday Party

Home of Jane Conner.

Saturday, December 8.

Begins at Noon.

Bring a Dish.

Members Only.

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly

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 antag-ging 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.

To verify members are meeting and to stay in touch in between, we use this email: cofwplot@yahoo.com

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: fyrefly93@gmail.com

Saralee Etter: saralee_etter@yahoo.com

☆☆☆ *Stellar News* ☆☆☆

What have you done recently to get one step closer to achieving a contract,
perfecting your business, connecting with your readers?

Let's celebrate your efforts.

☆ **Marcia James's** novella, *Racing Hearts*, Book 1 in her *Klein's K-9s Service Dogs* series, is a finalist in the "I Heart Indie!" contest held by the RWA Las Vegas chapter.

Minutes, Treasury Report for October 13

Norwich Township Building, Hilliard

President Jenessa McRoy opened the meeting at 12:08 p.m. saying everyone needs to pick up a little something to maintain COFW as a strong RWA chapter. She passed around sheets listing various positions within the chapter that will keep it viable. Also, the Works in Progress sheet was passed around.

Continuing Business

Board nominees for next year:

- Jeanne Estridge, treasurer, announced she will take the presidency.
- Stacy McKitrick has volunteered to be treasurer.
- Sandy Kachurek will take the secretary's position if someone will be the newsletter editor. (Robin Gianna mentioned that Amalie Berlin may be interested in being editor. Someone will contact her to ask.)

Other Committees and Positions:

Jenessa explained the various positions and functions of each listed on the sheet being passed around, including:

- Newsletter Editor: this is a top priority.
 - Nominating Committee: the committee requires three people to include a Board member and a member-at-large.
 - Power Draft: a once active group of members who met online periodically to set writing goals and to encourage each other to meet those goals.
 - Workshop Chairs: involves a budget, meeting with the Board, venues, speaker(s). Jenessa is willing to be one of two required chairs.
 - Social Media and Website Developer: Rachel Dye offered to chair social media and create a COFW website.
-
- Ignite the Flame: Jenessa expressed the findings of the committee who'd explored the Ignite the Flame Contest, hoping to increase its contestant entries, answer potential problems with judging, and whether to go in a different direction with it. Jenessa said the committee found the contest to be good as it stands.

Some changes may include how to find judges and having rewards appeal to those entrants who wish to be self-published as well as those traditionally published.

Similar to two years ago, the contest will open to entries May 1 and close May 31. Judging will take place in June. Two chairs are needed for this committee. Jenessa and Linda Rice volunteered. Shari Heinrich has expressed interest in the past, and Becky Barker volunteered to help with social media.

- Branding Committee: Becky Barker brought up the importance of a COFW brand to make anything COFW does, such as Ignite the Flame Contest, a successful public relations endeavor as well as a way of bringing in new members and funding.
- PAN and PRO Liaison: are these still relevant with the recent changes in RWA and in the market? Should they be combined? Susan Heino has served as PAN Liaison in the past and will look into revamping things for 2019. A committee may be formed to determine how COFW can best meet the needs of our published authors.

Upcoming Events:

- Retreat for 2019? A writing retreat had once been popular. The last two years COFW has tried to have one; we lost the deposit money when not enough members signed up. A survey via Survey Monkey will ask members, new and older, of their interests.
- Jeanne said she will be setting up a table at Sinclair Community College in Dayton to represent COFW during "Write Day" on October 21. Robin, inventory chair, has an old COFW tablecloth for Jeanne, and she will have COFW postcards.
- COFW, members-only, Holiday Party will be held at Jane Conner's home on Saturday, December 8, beginning at noon. Members bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be available in November. Do not publicize Jane's address:

3381 Sunnybrook Court. 43221. Member-of-the Year award will be given during the party.

- COFW Member of the Year: Voting will begin soon. Watch the loop for this! If you would like to nominate someone, please contact a board member.
- YahooGroups Loop: Members are still experiencing trouble with the loop. We have members looking into this for a solution, but Yahoo has announced that it will no longer support this feature, so it is obvious we need to find another platform ASAP. There is a possibility of setting up our own platform and not relying on RWA or another—this is being investigated for feasibility.

RWA is slowly transitioning chapters into the new platform, adding websites. We are on the waiting list and have been told it may be July before our website at that platform will be set up.

Reports

Treasurer:

Jeanne Estridge expressed concern for the budget next year. We will have enough money to meet expenses for the first quarter next year, but beyond that is uncertain. Our current funds: \$6,700.01 in checking, \$1,512.68 in PayPal, and \$1,564.60 in our Assistance Fund.

Programs:

- Aleta Dodson said we are on track for hosting digital classes in 2019. We plan to open these to non-COFW members. A survey will be sent to learn what topics most people are interested in. We want to be sure there is enough support to make the effort profitable. Our first digital class will be provided by Linnea Sinclair.

The question was raised about how much work would be involved in the digital classes. Rather than all of it resting on the Programs Chair, should we have a committee to serve under the chair to oversee these classes? Jenessa said she would like to help Aleta next year.

Incentives:

Julia Blaine was happy to reward several of our attendees for milestones this month:

- Saralee Etter celebrated the October 16th release of *Her Wild Irish Rogue*.
- Robin Gianna celebrated her May and September releases and is signing a new contract with Harlequin.
- Donna MacMeans has been invited to lead a workshop at Retreat to the Springs in Yellow Springs with Sandy Kachurek, co-directing, held at the end of October.
- Gina Smith has a book going live on October 23.
- Susan Gee Heino will contribute a story to a Christmas anthology.
- Becky Barker was amazed to win a contest that she didn't enter!

The meeting was adjourned for our guest speaker, COFW member and author Suzanne Sabol.

Works in Progress/Attendance for October 13

01. Aleta Dodson: published first book in Nashville series, completing second book's edits, recovering from bad cold.
02. Sandy Rice: historical romantic suspense *Man of Shadows*.
03. Julia Blaine: contemporary for Hallmark.
04. Becky Barker: finishing the last couple thousand words of *Deeper Than Love*, contemporary romance.
05. Jane Conner: reading up on how to write screenplays.
06. Anna Hess (guest): starting the third book in *Moon Marked* trilogy under pen name Aimee Easterling.

07. Suzanne M. Sabol: *Amber Ruin*.
08. Laura Sponhour: working on contemporary novel and trying some flash fiction.
09. Gina Smith w/a Rachelle Bradley: *Plum Twisted* launches October 23.
10. Rachel Dye w/a Juliette Hyland: *The Prince's Lotto Bride*, contemporary.
11. Robin Gianna: starting new duet with Amalie Berlin.
12. Sandy Kachurek: revising fantasy novel, *Dragon Cop Dream*.
13. Linda Rice: completed WWII book edit and looking for an agent, back to own writing.
14. Saralee Etter: gearing up for NaNoWriMo.
15. Antricia Tran (guest): romance/suspense.
16. Kris Branch (guest): just finished book 3 in multi-book series.
17. Eva Siedler (guest): *In All the Worlds*, middle grade.
18. Tanja Fazzari: continuing next novel on shape shifting.
19. Jeanne Estridge: present.
20. Jenessa McRoy: present.
21. Susan Gee Heino: finishing *Rogue of the Greenwood* and a Christmas short story.

Suzanne M. Sabol: Mapping Your Series

Recap by Rachel Dye

On October 13, COFW was fortunate to have author Suzanne Sabol present her process for mapping a successful series.

Suzanne writes urban fantasy and paranormal romance and published her first book *Cursed* in March of 2009. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and daughter.

Suzanne shared her (very impressive) Series Bible. She outlined her process for documenting and maintaining successful series and outlined her own personal pitfalls when she failed to maintain series' documentation. Any author contemplating, or currently writing, a series of connected books needs these tools to track and keep everything straight.

Suzanne hit on a few important starting notes from the very beginning. First, a series takes time and investment. You need to know how much you want to invest in these characters and their stories since you will likely be spending years with them.

Once you elect to dive into series mode, determine who is telling your story. Are you going to use multiple POVs or is this story from just your main character's eyes?

Most importantly, **KNOW HOW YOU PLAN TO END THE STORY!!!**

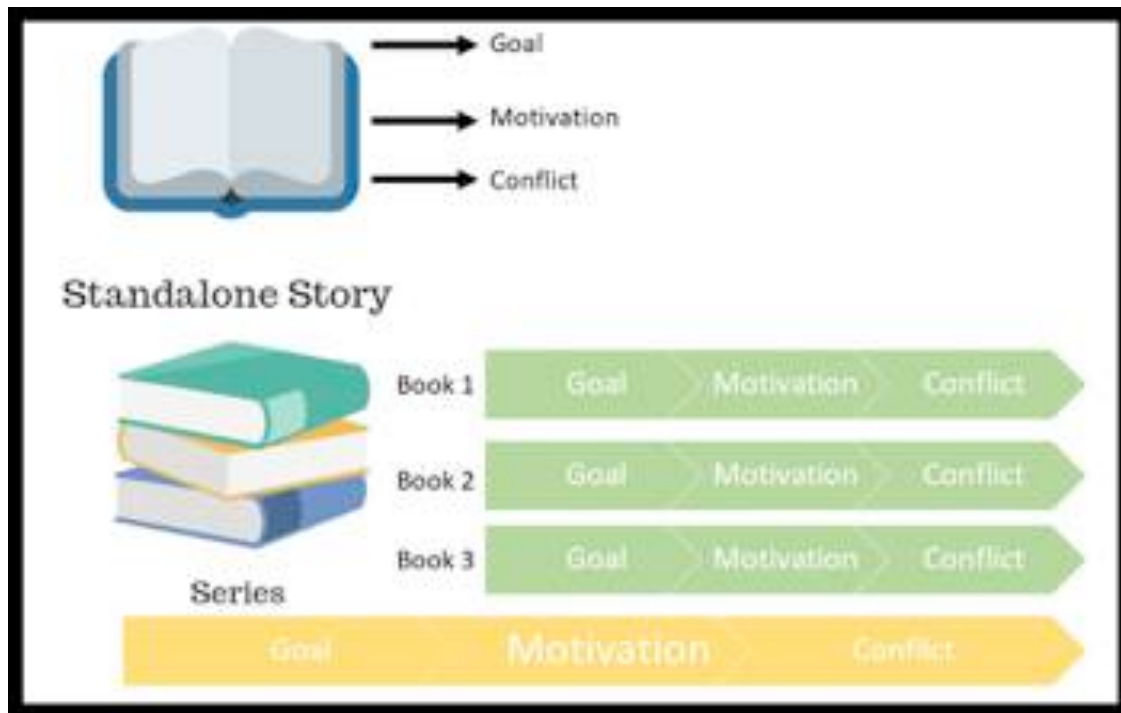


Suzanne Sabol finds a Series Bible a necessary aspect of writing a series and shared hers with the membership and guests.

You cannot know where to start if you do not know where you are ending. Multiple series have lost readers because authors have not “closed the loop.” Series are great but all endings must come.

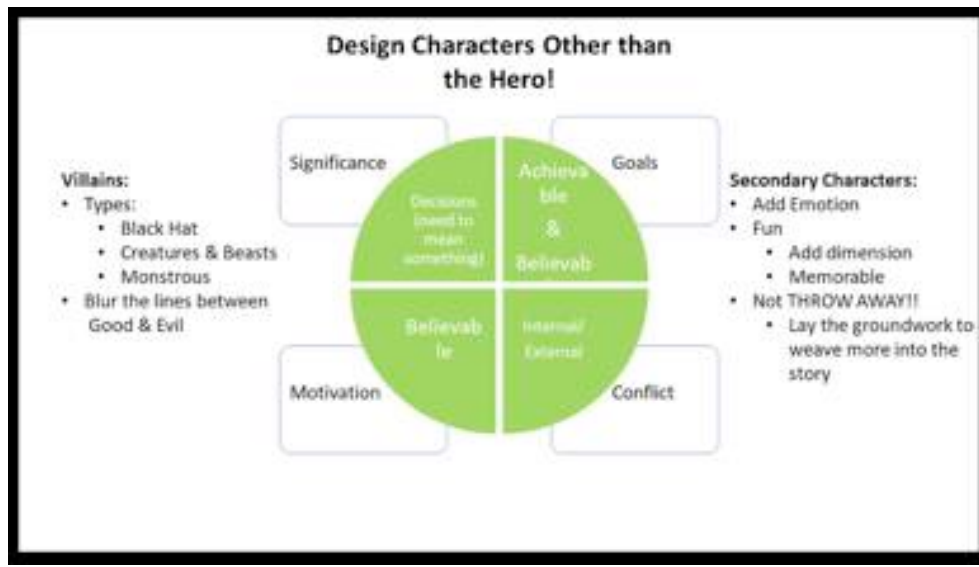
Character:

While all stories are driven by your characters' goal, motivation and conflict (GMC), in a series, each book needs to also drive this GMC through the full series. DON'T WING IT!!



Suzanne stressed the need to develop many characters, not just your hero. Villains need to be able to drive the conflict through the series. Every move they make needs to be significant to drive the story.

Secondary Characters add valuable emotion and can lay groundwork for future stories in the series.

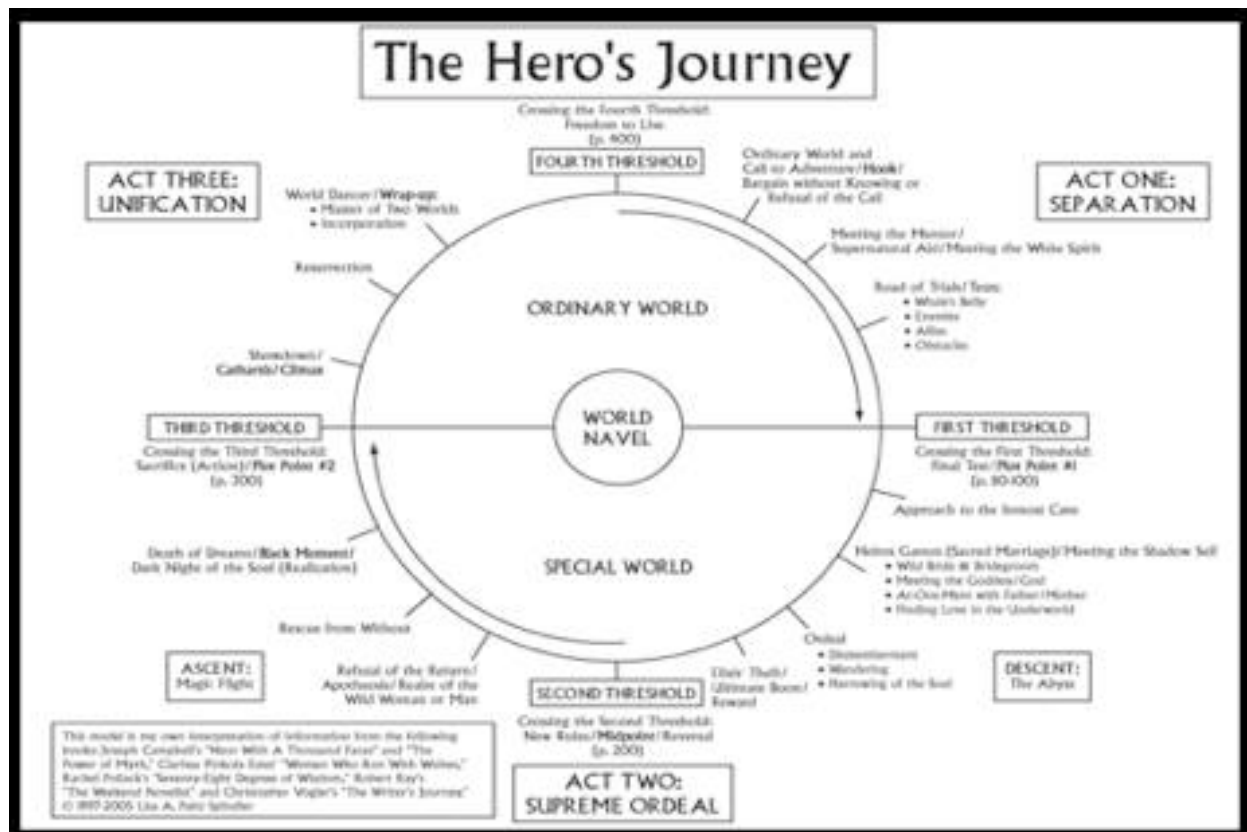


The Hero's Journey:

While each story will need its own standalone plot and “hero’s journey,” the series needs to be consistently moving the overall journey too.

Suzanne highlighted the hero’s journey in *Star Wars* (She really hates the character of Luke Skywalker.), *Pride and Prejudice* and her own series.

This graphic can be found at <http://www.sfccenter.ku.edu/Workshop-stuff/Joseph-Campbell-Hero-Journey.htm> and was developed by Lisa A. Paltz Spindler. It is a detailed graphic to outline the well known hero’s journey, as outlined by Joseph Campbell.



Story Bible: Maintain one!

Finally, once you have characters and a journey outlined how do you keep track of everything through multiple books? When looking towards your story's world ensure that you are making consistent decisions.

If you cannot time travel in book 1, then you cannot go against the story in book 3. Your readers will catch this and drop you for consistency issues! This is where the important story bible comes in to play.

As an author you can decide the method you like most. It can be on paper or digital. The only rule is that it must be workable for you! If you decide on a paper system, Suzanne highlighted the need to be realistic. Will you be able to find your notes in a six page binder system? Probably but it will be time consuming.

Suzanne prefers a digital system since it is accessible anywhere. She personally uses Airtable but Evernote and OneNote are other platforms used by many authors.

Airtable: Airtable is a spreadsheet-database hybrid, with the features of a database but applied to a spreadsheet. The fields in an Airtable table are similar to cells in a spreadsheet but have types such as "checkbox," "phone number," and "drop-down list," and can reference file attachments like images. Users can create a database, set up column types, add records, link tables to one another, collaborate, sort records and publish views to external websites.

It's free to sign up at <https://airtable.com/>.

Evernote: Evernote is a mobile app designed for note taking, organizing, tasks lists, and archiving. It allows users to create *notes*, which can be a piece of formatted text, a Web page or Web page excerpt, a photograph, a voice memo, or a handwritten "ink" note. Notes can also have file attachments. Notes can be sorted into a notebook, tagged, annotated, edited, given comments, searched, and exported.

Evernote is free to use with monthly usage limits and offers paid plans for expanded or lifted limits. However, last month Evernote lost many of its senior executives and may be having funding issues. For more information see this article by typing in "Tech Crunch."

Signup here: <https://evernote.com/>

OneNote: Microsoft OneNote is a free-form information gathering and multi-user collaboration. It gathers users' notes (handwritten or typed), drawings, screen clippings and audio commentaries. Notes can be shared with other OneNote users over the Internet or a network.

It is available as a free standalone application for Mac OS, Windows RT, Windows Phone, iOS and Android. A web-based version of OneNote is

provided as part of OneDrive or Office Online; this version enables users to edit notes via a web browser.

Signup at: www.onenote.com (If you have a Microsoft live account it will automatically load when you login from your Microsoft device.)

Suzanne stressed that it doesn't matter which platform you use, provided you keep your notes organized to maintain consistency. If your series is not consistent your readers will let you know! Maintaining these notes and plans will help you have the building blocks to begin and end your series successfully.



Suzanne's Blushing Death series is into its ninth book.

Suzanne maintains her website: <https://suzannemsabol.com/>. Her Twitter account is: [@suzannemsabol](https://twitter.com/suzannemsabol).



Recap Writer, Rachel Dye, writing as Juliette Hyland, is an aspiring romance author. She holds a bachelor's degree in history. When she's not putting pen to paper, she can usually be found behind her sewing machine. She lives in Ohio with her husband, two children and a pair of giant dogs.

Two New Releases

December I

by

Amalie Berlin

Their Christmas to Remember

A Christmas kiss ...

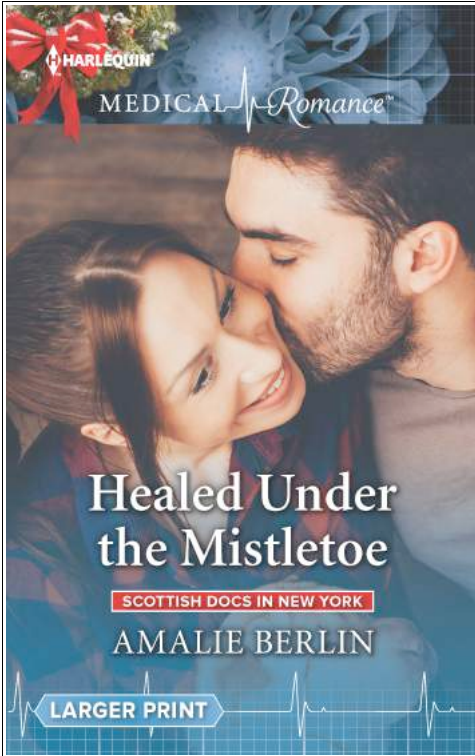
... with the rebel surgeon!

In this *Scottish Docs in New York* story, Dr. Angel Conley will do anything to bring the joy of Christmas to her young patients. Only she doesn't count of gorgeous Scottish surgeon Wolfe McKeag being her reluctant partner in crime!

They've both spent their lives running from relationships, but as their passion for each other turns into so much more, dare they believe in the magic of Christmas?



Healed Under the Mistletoe



A precious gift ...

... to mend his scarred heart.

In this *Scottish Docs in New York* story, when Dr. Lyons McKeag finds an anonymous gift in his locker, he's furious. But nurse Belle Sabetta isn't fooled by his brooding, scrooge-like exterior ...

Her own experiences of loss means she knows that a little kindness, especially at Christmas, can go a long way. And Belle's innocence and passion could be the gift that heals Lyon's damaged heart.

Amalie Berlin lives with her family and a passel of critters in Southern Ohio. She writes quirky, independent characters for Harlequin Medical Romance. Her favorite stories buck expectations with unusual settings and situations. She believes that humor can powerfully illuminate truth, especially when juxtaposed against intense emotions, and that love is stronger and more satisfying when your partner can make you laugh through the times when you don't have the luxury for tears.

Amalie is a member of COFW because she believes, "We all need a place where our particular brand of creative strangeness is normal. Because normal people just don't get it."

<http://www.amalieberlin.com/>

New Release by Karen Harper

Silent Scream

Book 5 in Karen's *South Shore* romantic/suspense series, *Silent Scream* will be available **November 27**.

Forensic psychologist Claire and criminal lawyer husband Nick Markwood become involved in a double murder.

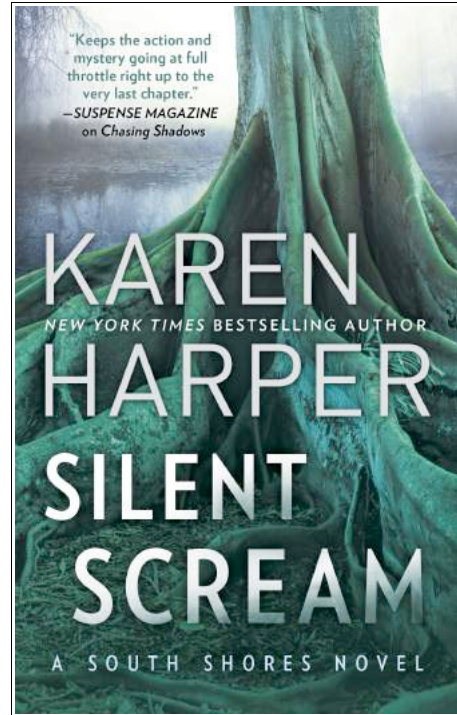
A woman is found dead in a friend's freezer and Claire is trying to solve a prehistoric bog murder before the next bodies to be discovered may be their own.

Karen Harper is a founding member of



COFW, so she has been there from the start. She was first published in 1982. "Travel and family demands get in the way of attending meetings sometimes, but it's great to still have some of the original friends over the years. Yet, new people and new ideas are also the bedrock of COFW."

A *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author, Karen Harper is a former college English instructor (The Ohio State University) and high school literature and writing teacher. A lifelong Ohioan, Karen and her husband Don divide their time between the midwest and the southeast; both locations she has used in her books. <http://www.karenharperauthor.com/>



New Release by Saralee Etter

My Wild Irish Rogue

Loving a warrior is dangerous. Trusting a spy is foolish.

The Napoleonic Wars are over, and war hero Captain Stephen Killian is determined to learn the tradecraft of a spy. He never knew that attending glittering balls and masquerades was such a dangerous pursuit and delectable cryptographer Emma Forgall just as dangerous to his heart.

Daughter of Wellington's spymaster, Miss Emma Forgall's grace and charm win her the confidence of rulers and diplomats. But now she must work with a hot-headed former calvary officer who starts a sword-fight at the opera! Captain Killian's swordplay is thrilling, but Emma has her doubts about whose side he is on.

When a plot against the Allies threatens to re-ignite the turmoil of war, can Killian and Emma join forces to catch the culprits?



Saralee Etter joined COFW in 2002 because the writing community was known to help aspiring writers learn the craft. No other genre writers' group would admit unpublished authors. Over the years, she's served as newsletter editor and contest coordinator, as well as moderating a Yahoo loop for meeting monthly writing goals. "My COFW friends have been cheerleaders, comforters and companions on our shared writing journey."

Saralee is the author of three traditional Regency romances. She's currently working on *A Short Sharp Shock*, the first book in a Victorian-set mystery series featuring sleuth Lucy Turner and her friends, William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

<http://www.saraleeetter.com/>

Say "Welcome" to COFW's Newest Member, Laura Sponhour

Laura Sponhour writes from Gahanna under the name Leah Snow. She picked up information about COFW at a table during the Ohioana Book Festival. Her reason for joining? "Everyone's serious focus on business and getting published is inspiring."



Q: What is your favorite genre within which to write?

A: Historical fiction, especially the early 20th century up to WW II.

Q: What is your favorite writing regimen?

A: I get up at 5 or 6, depending on what time I have to be at work, feed the dog and cat, and get to writing for about an hour. Sometimes I can get bits and pieces done during lunch.

Q: Where do you like to write?

A: I fantasize about a She Shed done up in soft pinks and greens, but right now it's mostly the dining room table with the cat giving me the evil eye and the dog looking soulful because they want something better than what's in their bowls.

Q: What inspires you to write?

A: It's not that I feel real inspiration. It's that I feel so feckless when I don't write.

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

A: I'm trying to find my voice. And then trust it once I find it.

Q: Who are your favorite authors?

A: Jane Austen, Kazuo Ishiguro, Marilynne Robinson, Anne Tyler, Kurt Vonnegut, Jennifer Cruise.

Q: What types of books do you enjoy reading?

A: Basically, if the writing is solid but not showy, the characters I like are better off at the end than they were at the beginning, and it's a good yarn without too much navel gazing, I will enjoy the book. Quirky humor is good, too. And I will read ANY riff on Beauty and the Beast, even if it's stupid and poorly written.

Q: What are you reading now?

A: Just finished the lovely and poignant *Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo (which I should have listed as a favorite author). It is the sequel to *Raymie Nightingale*, which is EXCELLENT.

Q: Are you married, have children, hobbies?

A: My husband Mike and I have been married for 25 years and have two boys. Stephen is a junior at Ohio University studying communications, and Matthew is a senior at Gahanna Lincoln considering sports analytics. I'm an information services manager with Columbus Metropolitan Library. Writing takes almost all available hobby time, but exercise is important to me. I especially enjoy hiking around Columbus's metro parks.

Q: Anything else the members of COFW would enjoy knowing about you?

A: I once went bowling with the clowns from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. They wore street clothes but were still acting like clowns. We got many strange looks from bowlers in other lanes, I can tell you.

Welcome, Laura, to COFW.

☆☆☆ *Stellar News* ☆☆☆

What have you done recently to get one step closer to achieving a contract,
perfecting your business, connecting with your readers?
Let's celebrate your efforts.

☆ **Marcia James's** novella, *Racing Hearts*, Book I in her *Klein's K-9s Service Dogs* series, is a finalist in the "I Heart Indie!" contest held by the RWA Las Vegas chapter.



COFW members and guests welcome Suzanne Sabol (center).

BEGIN and AGAIN

by Julia C. Oliver w/a Julianna Hughes

The following article first appeared in the September 2018 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters and proper credit to author and chapter.

Begin and *again*: these two words have come to mean a lot to me in my life. And just what special meaning have they come to have for me? Well, let us look at these two words and their meanings according to the dictionary.

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, the word *BEGIN* is an intransitive verb. It gives its meaning as: "*to do the first of an action,*" "*to go into the first part of a process, to Start,*" "*to come into existence: ARISE,*" "*to have a starting point,*" and finally, "*to set about the activity of STARTING.*"

AGAIN is an adverb. Merriam-Webster tells us that it means, "*another time*" and "*once more.*"

So, why have these two words come to mean so much to me? Especially at this time in my life? And why am I writing about these two simple words? To understand that, I need to tell you a bit about me.

I am a sixty-one-year-old retired police officer, who is about to publish my first book this month.

For me it is a new *BEGINNING*. One I have dreamed about nearly all my life. In essence, I am beginning a new chapter in my life. But it is NOT the first time I have begun a new phase, or chapter, in my life.

During my life I have had to define and then re-define myself several times.

Each of those changes demanded that I *BEGIN*, and then pursue that dream in order to achieve the goal I set for myself. And over time I would look at my life and decide I needed to change my life and go in a different direction. Thereby, requiring I *BEGIN AGAIN*.

And as simple as it might sound, the hardest thing for most people to do is to simply *BEGIN*.

As I've gotten older, beginning *AGAIN* has gotten harder and harder each time. Retiring from the Houston Police Department after more than thirty-one years and turning myself into a published author required that I once again *begin again*.

So as I teeter on the cusp of another new *beginning* in my life *again* I want to tell those of you who have a dream that the best way to accomplish your dream is to begin. And if you fail, begin *again*, and *again*, and *again*.

Years ago, I made up a motto for my life, and I would like to share it as a parting thought.

Dreams can come true, if you are willing to do more than dream about them.

So, my friends, if it is a dream, a goal, or a hope in your life, just take the first step, and begin.

Julianna Hughes. Creating romantic stories is something Julianna has done since she was a small child. But it wasn't until she retired from the Houston Police Department after more than 31 years that she would be able to pursue her lifelong dream of having her stories published. Julianna writes historical romances, combining her love of history and writing to create stories with strong women and enduring heroes. <https://juliannahughes.com>

