



Lost State Writers  
Guild  
March 2016  
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The March 3, 2016 meeting at the Golden Corral in Johnson City at 11:30 AM.  
Our Guest speaker is Jennifer Bauer, an employee at Roan Mountain State Park and the author of "Wildlife, Wildflowers and Wild Activities: Exploring Southern Appalachia" and "Roan Mountain: History of an Appalachian Treasure." Besides the nature of the area, she is also familiar with traditional crafts such as weaving.

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The April 7, 2016 meeting at Shoney's in Bristol, VA at 11:30 AM. Our Guest speaker: Joe Tennis

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Our 2015-2016 membership year begins in August, with a meeting at the Golden Corral in Kingsport on August 6th. Dues (\$10) - Checks are to be made out to the Lost State Writers Guild and accepted by Carol Jackson, our Treasurer.

### **Notes of News & Accomplishments of our Members**

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*FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND WAR HEROES*  
*and*  
*Pioneer Lady of Southern Appalachia*  
*by*  
*Darrell R. Fleming, Author*

Personally autographed. Today's sale price: \$15.00

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"Sand Trap", "Spy Dreams"  
& "Cigarettes for Two"

available at Amazon.com

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"Port in a Desert Storm" Late 2015  
"unFriendly Persuasion" 2016



Scan to view our Website!

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Claudia Ware's website has a newsletter that she would like to use to benefit writers. Send her an e-mail right on the website with anything you think would benefit other writers. Examples: a business that you can recommend to writers, a good quote, anything that pertains to writing. website [www.forhimpres.com](http://www.forhimpres.com)

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Billy (Bubba) Crawford, co-owner of Bubba's Book Swap wants to work with local authors to increase visibility for their books and his shop. He has a display of local authors' books at the front of his store. In addition Billy has offered to talk about becoming a point of sale for local authors so their books may be ordered and shipped through his e-commerce account, minus a percentage for his expenses. Please go to [www.bubbasbookswap.com](http://www.bubbasbookswap.com)

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Keith Donnelly's Book 6 of the Donald Youngblood Series, *Three Daggers Dripping* (2016) was released in late November. More information on the new title can be found on the series web site and Facebook page.

[www.donaldyoungbloodmysteries.com](http://www.donaldyoungbloodmysteries.com)

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*"If you don't like something, change it, If you can't change it, change your attitude."*

- Maya Angelou

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## Maniacal

**Maniacal** *adj.* Characterized by excessive enthusiasm or excitement. "A maniacal grin on his face."

## Blue Mountain Arts Poetry Card Contest

— No Entry Fee

Prize: \$300.00. Entry fee: \$0.00. Deadline: 06-30-2016.

Blue Mountain Arts, a publisher of distinct greeting cards, is seeking rhyming and non-rhyming poems from poets for its Poetry Card Contest. First place wins \$300; second place wins \$150; and third place wins \$50. Judges would like to see poetry that deals with true emotions and feelings as they relate to somebody special or to a special event in life. Poets can submit as many poems as they wish.

## Annual Writing Competition

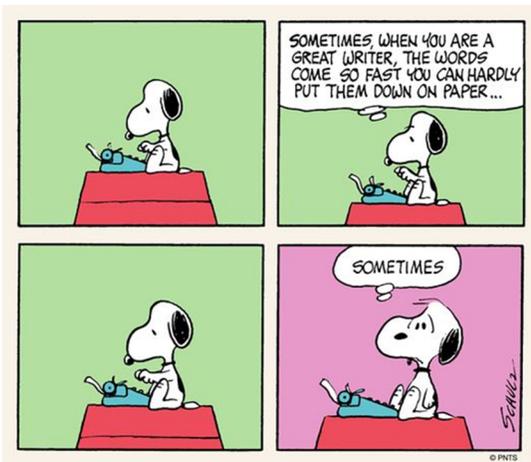
**DEADLINE: May 6, 2016**

Writer's Digest's oldest and most popular competition, the Annual Writing Competition, is accepting entries. Enter our 85th annual competition for a chance to win cash and prizes.

## Self-Published Book Awards

**DEADLINE: 04/01/2016**

Writer's Digest's Self-Published Book Awards is currently accepting entries. This is the only Writer's Digest competition exclusively for self-published books.



Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up.

Jane Yolen

## **Use All Five Senses to Enrich Your Writing** by Carla King (BOOK BABY)

Sight is the most obvious of the senses to invoke when depicting a scene in your written work, but your visual descriptions will benefit when you incorporate your other senses to enrich your writing.

First drafts of most travelogues are full of rich, visual detail, but often fall short on smells, tastes, sounds, and feelings. I've learned to add an editing round to incorporate all the senses, and am constantly surprised at all the new memories that are conjured up and the rich expansion of each scene. I've noticed that quite a lot of nice metaphors and similes come out of this exercise, too.

### **Sight**

The most obvious and easiest of the senses to describe, sight delivers on color and texture and important aspects of scenes like landscapes, cityscapes, objects, and faces. Your visual descriptions will often benefit from the addition of another sense or two.

### **Smell**

The sense of smell is the most closely linked with memory, and is highly emotive, as perfumers know. For example, you might transport the reader to a seaside village on a Croatian island by describing the slightly sweet, putrid scent of seaweed baking at low tide in the late afternoon sun.

### **Taste**

Did you know that at least 75% of is taste actually formed from smell? Taste can be broken down into five areas: salty, bitter, sweet, sour, and umami, a Japanese word meaning "pleasant savory taste." So the aroma of that rotting seaweed contributes more than you might realize to the taste of the oyster you just slurped.

### **Touch**

Unlike the other senses, the sense of touch is generously distributed all over the skin and even inside your body. With five million sensory nerve receptors (and over twenty different types of pain nerve endings) we can afford to spend a little more time on touch. Does the smell of rotting seaweed bring on a tightening of your throat, making it difficult to slip that oyster down? Readers want to know what that felt like (sort of). The feel of a handshake can reveal a page's worth of character-building visual description. Keep in mind that the most sensitive areas of the body are your hands, lips, face, neck, tongue, fingertips, and feet.

### **Sound**

Hearing is often described as the most important sense because it's our early warning system. Our hearing separates complicated sounds into tones or frequencies that our minds track individually. We can follow a variety of strains of voices or instruments while also taking note of the slap of water on a boat hull, the whistle of wind through a crack in the window, the tinkle of glasses, a backfiring engine. Descriptions of sounds can backlight a scene or create drama with sudden impact.

### **Synesthesia**

Have some fun with synesthesia, the art of assigning one sensation to another: color to sound, smell to color, sound to smell, etc. Here's a line from Bruno Schultz's *Street of the Crocodiles*: "Adelia would plunge the rooms into semidarkness by drawing down the linen blinds. All colors immediately fell an octave lower; the room filled with shadows, as if it had sunk to the bottom of the sea and the light was reflected in mirrors of green water."

## Writing Prompt

Judy Donley meet with Carol Jackson at a dental office once a month and exchange papers.

What are they exchanging?

What do the people from the dental office peeking out the window think or do?

Please write a story and email them to [donleytreasures@gmail.com](mailto:donleytreasures@gmail.com) those stories will be in the newsletter.

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By: Brian A. Klems | March 15, 2012; Writer's Digest ..... **Tips When Writing a Blog Do ...**

### **Find your focus.**

To do this, you must first ask yourself this question: Who are your target readers? Once that's settled, you can home in on a niche category (like this one focuses on writing) and be the expert on it.

### **Be relatable, be yourself.**

*What sets bloggers apart from newspaper article feeds is voice. Let your readers get to know you.* [Like this quote? Click here to Tweet and share it!] Your content is what draws them in while your personality, or your voice in writing, is what will keep them there.

### **Use links within your posts.**

Whether you are linking to other blogs or websites that contain great information or linking to past posts on your own site, do it whenever you can. This will help not only increase your clicks but also help with your blog's search engine rankings.

### **Include images.**

While readers come to your blog for information and personality, they also need to be stimulated visually. Not all posts will lend themselves to an image, but when they do, take advantage of it. Here's some advice on finding free online images that you can use.

### **Respond to blog comments.**

This is an opportunity to connect directly with the people who are reading your work. Not all comments need a response, but be sure to respond to ones that do. And sometimes it's worth just popping on and posting "Thanks for reading my blog."

### **Post to Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and Anywhere Else You Can.**

Don't be afraid to use social media to tout your posts. Anything that makes it easier for potential readers to find your blog is a must (and friends and family definitely qualify as potential readers).

## **When Writing a Blog Don't ...**

### **Set Unrealistic Goals.**

You know your schedule and abilities better than anyone else, so don't attempt to post every day if you can't. Start out by posting weekly and get in a groove. As you streamline your process, increase your posting if you can.

### **Limit your word count.**

If you have something to say, say it. Readers (and search engines) prefer to get meatier pieces (500 words or more) to make clicking through worth their time. This doesn't mean you can't feature shorter pieces or that you should ramble on just to meet a word count, but don't be afraid to break down antiquated perceptions that blogs need to be short. When the time is right, go long.

### **Make grammar mistakes.**

And, if you do, correct them immediately. Folks on the Web tend to be more lenient about typos, so don't stress about it if you do make a mistake. But correct it as soon as you can. Remember, if you ever want readers to take you seriously, you have to take yourself (and your blog) seriously. Give it the professional quality it deserves.