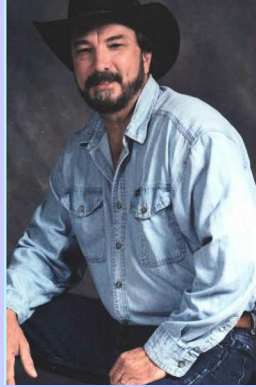


# THE SCRIBBLER

Volume 1

2011

From the desk of the  
Mississippi Writers Guild  
President,  
Ralph Gordon



It's hard to believe that it's already March. The year got off to tumultuous start but we did get started. Any of you who have tried to have a conversation with me knows my hearing went from bad to worse due to an ear infection back in January. The infection has cleared up now but some of the hearing loss is going to be permanent. I have seen a hearing specialist and I am in the process of being fitted with hearing aids. So keep those phone calls coming. My ear problem pales in comparison to what Richelle's husband Tim endured.

Tim suffered from a terrible staph infection in January. He was in Rush Hospital for thirty three days. By the Grace of God his is home now. He's not back to one hundred percent yet, but it looks like he's on the mend. Rest assured that he is in the good hands of his loving wife Richelle. If I know Richelle she will see to it that he does get back to one hundred percent and then some. My hat is off to her. She never gave up hope on Tim even when the doctors seem to have. She is very grateful for all the many prayers.

The Guild has so much going on that it's hard to keep up with. Our new Board is energetically working for you every day. Every member has contributed to at least one project

this year. We have workshops in Meridian and Poetry in Vicksburg to name a couple. Contact June Davidson for more information on the Meridian workshop and me for more information on Poetry in Vicksburg.

The Conference will be held in Jackson this year. Vicksburg has always been very good to us but we felt like there would be many advantages in moving to Jackson. Jackson is more centrally located and closer to the airport. The move has already opened some new doors for us. The Guild is partnering with the Greater Jackson Arts Council for the event. The Council has graciously offered their building in downtown Jackson for the Conference. Richelle has a great slate of speakers lined up. She will have those name posted on the websites soon.

Things keep getting better and better. This year the Mississippi Library Commission is hosting the reception for the Conference on Friday August 5. **As always everyone is invited.** They are also sponsoring Literary Artists on Stage. We have added a keynote speaker to the Friday night program. Diane Williams will also speak on the subject of grants for writers on Friday night. Both speakers will speak after reception. Literary Arts on Stage will follow.

Keep those calendars handy. We have a lot going on and you ain't seen nothing yet. The Guild is up and running full steam in spite of the tumultuous start this year.

*Ralph Gordon*



Spotlight  
On  
Tunica



Rachell Anderson, Psy..D

**Writing the Stories Of  
Our lives in Tunica**

Open to anyone who wants to write, the Tunica Chapter of the Mississippi Writers Guild has spent the past three years teaching community members to turn memories into memoirs.

Beginning at the R.C. Irwin library and later moving to the Tunica Museum, members of the group declare that everyone has a story and many want to be told.

Our lives are defined by the stories we tell ourselves and the ones we don't tell. However, we are healed by the stories we tell, not the ones we keep. With that in mind, the Chapter conducts monthly workshop and invites all who want to write.

The Tunica Times and the Desota Appeal newspapers and the Memphis Unitarian Church bulletin have printed announcements for the meetings. In addition, a sign announcing the meeting time is permanently posted in the Tunica Museum.

Each year, 9 monthly Writing Workshops are planned which teach techniques, gives writing exercises, and supports people who want to share their writing. The workshops are free and lead by Dr. Rachell Anderson, a

clinical Psychologist and retired University professor. Dr Anderson designs each workshops and the series.

*Participants are taught to pick a person, place, or thing about which to write. They are taught to develop an outline for the project, to develop a writing schedule, and to edit their manuscript.*

Each participant is given the opportunity to write the beginning, the middle and the end of a story during each workshop thereby guaranteeing he or she leaves each workshop with a complete story.

If participants complete the 9 month series, they will have a complete book at the end. Information about book design and publishing are also presented.

Several participants have completed a memoir using this design. We are a welcoming group. People with all writing ability and writing interest are embraced.

The Tunica chapter is co-lead by Ms. Jennifer Nolon and Dr. Rachell Anderson. It is free and open to anyone who wants to write.

© Rachell N. Anderson, Psy. D. January 20, 2011

***Tunica Chapter of the  
Mississippi Writers Guild will present  
Writers' Workshop Series  
Precious Lives: Writing the Lives of Ordinary People  
March 19th, 2011***

***1-3:30 PM***

***It's Free. It's Fun.***

***We'll write about Marriage and Family***

***Tunica Museum***

***Tunica, MS 38676***

***COME WRITE WITH US!***

***Contact Dr. Rachell Anderson***

***Rander5022@Wildblue.net***



## **ACCOLADES**

### **To Wynne Huddleston**

Wynne Huddleston is a poet and music teacher with a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. A board member of the Mississippi Writers Guild and a member of the Mississippi Poetry Society, Ms. Huddleston's poetry has been, or will be published in Poets for Living Waters, Emerald Tales, Waterways, Gemini Magazine, Today in Mississippi, Enchanted Conversation, The Shine Journal, From the Porch Swing, THEMA: Music and Math, Birmingham Arts Journal, joyful! Camroc Press Review, Victorian Violet Press, Purple Poetry Book, Southern Women's Review, Grandmother Earth XVII, Pond Ripples Magazine, Calliope Nerve, EarthSpeak Magazine, Short, Fast and Deadly, Cherry Blossom Review, Halfway Down the Stairs, Mississippi Poetry Journal, The Mom Egg, Words: A Poetry and Prose Anthology, Raven Chronicles, Stymie: A Journal of Sport and Literature, The Battered Suitcase, New Fairy Tales, WestWard Quarterly, and The Stray Branch. Ms. Huddleston is the 1st Place Winner of the 2010 Grandmother Earth National Contest, Environmental Division, the 3rd Place Winner in the Poets Anonymous Award of the 2010 Mississippi Poetry Society Fall Festival, and the winner of Enchanted Conversation's "Daughters of the Air" Contest.

Visit her at: [wynnehuddleston.wordpress.com](http://wynnehuddleston.wordpress.com) or [wynne-huddleston.blogspot.com](http://wynne-huddleston.blogspot.com).

**Please send your accomplishments to The Scribbler at**  
[scribblernews@gmail.com](mailto:scribblernews@gmail.com)

## **EVENT NEWS**

### ***Self-Publishing and You!***

#### **A Randy Young Workshop**

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
From 2 pm-5 pm**

The Meridian Community College - Webb Hall.

This workshop will cover all aspects of getting your work published. The following topics will be discussed in depth with workshop instructor, Randy Young of Sleepytown Press.

**The cost of self-publishing**  
**The rewards of self-publishing**  
**Avoiding the self-publishing traps**  
**Self-Publishing options**  
**From cover-to-cover to publish a book**  
**Editing**  
**Manuscript Formatting**  
**Book covers and designs**

Register by calling or visiting Meridian Community College at Webb Hall. **Phone: 601-482-7445**

Workshop fee is \$40.00

**Meridian Community College 910 Hwy 19 North  
Meridian, MS 39307**

## Lydia's Tips



**Lydia Dell**

### **What about Inspiration?**

Lately, I've been acutely aware of moments I am drawn to write. Call it what you will but typically I refer to this as inspiration. I know the old saying about whatever percent inspiration and the other percent perspiration as well as the next guy. Perspiration may help me complete a project but what drives me to start it in the first place? What makes me feel the need to put words on paper or actually inspires me to write? In preparation for a workshop a few weeks ago I was asked to think about "my story" ahead of time. What story? I was clueless. So, I gave up and decided to watch a movie instead of beating myself up for not knowing what my story might be. Well into the movie, a storyline totally removed from what I was watching started running through my head. The images and passion behind this story grew and gnawed at me until tears rolled down my face. What else could I do but grab a notebook and start writing? I have no idea how the movie I was watching ended but seemingly out of nowhere I became inspired. I found my story.

This is probably very close to the concept of walking into a room for something, forgetting what you came for and going back from where you came to remember what you were after in the first place. It's something like trying to get rid of hiccups -- focus on something else and the answer or cure appears to come out of nowhere. Or does it? I was watching the movie *The Soloist* the other night,

about a mentally ill, homeless man in L.A. who was a musical genius. His preference was the cello and violin; his obsession was Beethoven. The man heard and felt music in ways few of could even dream of. Could this be the same with painting, or writing? Do some of us hear or feel things that others don't? Is it all about inspiration and how we choose to channel it?

I am equally inspired by music, a cool crisp day, books, pictures, even colors, or the silence that surrounds me when I am home alone. How many times do you get your best ideas when you are driving your car or taking a shower? For me, inspiration is everywhere, all around me. The question always becomes, what will I do with it when it hits me? I like to believe that somewhere deep within the answer to that question is what makes me a writer. I believe the very thing that awakens me to notice even the most subtle of hints around me is what drives my need and desire to put words and phrases together day after day. What does your inspiration feel like? What does it look like? Where does it come from? What do you do with it when it appears?

Lydia Dell, Jackson Chapter

## Natchez News



G. Mark LaFrancis



## WRITING PROMPTS

### Show, Don't Tell

1. You are alone in a boat in the middle of a large lake, and it's raining. The wind is howling and lightning is striking, growing closer and closer. You are headed for the distant shore when the motor give out of fuel, and you are left stranded without a life preserver or an oar.

Display "emotion" without generic words such as fear, anxiousness, shock, determination, etc. Show the proper emotion without telling what the emotion is. Ie: "She was afraid." "She was determined." "She was shocked." These are telling words.

2. The love of your life jilted you for a woman twice your age. Show the scene by using at least three senses, dialog and two characters.

3. You are at an expensive restaurant, the waiter is over-attentive and he flirts with you in front of your date. Show the waiter flirting. Show the reaction of all three.

Dialog permitted in each prompt.

Use the five senses. Three paragraphs are allowed for each prompt.

Please email your scene to:  
**[scribblernews@gmail.com](mailto:scribblernews@gmail.com)**

We'll post the top three submissions in next issue of the scribbler.

The Natchez Chapter will be recruiting members during the award-winning Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Feb. 24-27 in Natchez.

The NLCC is a celebration of writers, writing and film.

This year's theme is "Fields of Dreams: Sports in the South."

Literature will be available about the MWG and the Natchez chapter. Also, Chapter President G. Mark LaFrancis will personally recruit members. LaFrancis hopes to kick off the chapter in early March. "I'm asking other chapters and members to send me ideas that have worked, and not worked," LaFrancis said. "And, I welcome any and all ideas." LaFrancis can be reached at [gmarklafrancis@hotmail.com](mailto:gmarklafrancis@hotmail.com)

For information about the NLCC go to [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc)

**Please share your chapter news!**

Email us at: [scribblernews@gmail.com](mailto:scribblernews@gmail.com)

**Visit the Mississippi Writers Guild website at**

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

## TIPS

Richelle Putnam

Meridian Chapter

You've had an idea for some time, but aren't quite ready to write the story. Don't let the story slip away by ignoring it until you're ready. Start writing down what you do know, the main character, the problem, the setting, a scene, the beginning, the end, etc. Writing down what do you do know will spur what you don't know. So, what are you waiting for...start writing!

Copy favorite lines/paragraphs from books you are reading, making a mental note of each word. After you've done so, read what you've written out loud. Listen to and feel the flow of the words and how they connect to each other. Take note of how you, the reader, are affected. Below this writing, begin to substitute your own words into the writing relative to setting, character, adjectives, etc. Change a "he" to "she." Change the setting from indoors to outdoors. Change the emotion from love to anger. Change a metaphor or simile. But use the exact number of nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. and the word count. This keeps you from going overboard or not doing enough.

Evaluate a first draft you have finished. What are its strengths? What are its weaknesses? What elements (dialogue, setting, plot, character, voice, etc.) of the story are missing? After you write down your analysis, put the project away and begin thinking about, planning and writing down solutions to the story. Don't pull the story back out until you are ready. And don't edit in your changes to your draft. Start over...clean paper for every page. First drafts are just that. Drafts.

## DANGLING MODIFIERS:

A dangling modifier is a dependent structure which is related to the wrong word in the sentence. It is usually caused by a writer's starting a construction and forgetting where he or she is going. The sentence becomes misleading and sometimes absurd.

"Turning the corner, the truck was seen."

This sentence gives the false impression that the truck was turning the corner. What is missing from the sentence is the person who turned the corner and saw the truck.

"Turning the corner, he saw the truck."