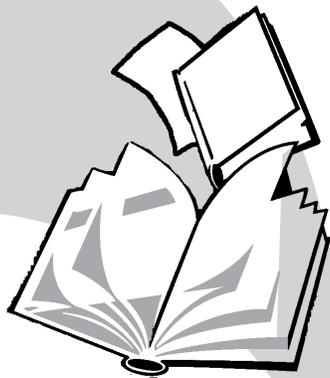


The Written Word

NO. 4 • VOL. II • 4TH QUARTER 2010

ADVICE FROM A WRITING PROFESSOR:

“Read over your compositions, and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out.”



www.uppaa.org

2010 UPPAA Fall Meeting Goes Well

The UPPAA Fall Meeting was held from 10am-4pm on Saturday, October 2, 2010, in the Shiras Room of the Peter White Public Library, Marquette, Michigan.

Eighteen people attended. Everyone seemed to have a good time talking to each other. President Tyler Tichelaar noted that the Board elections would take place in spring and that most of the board would be stepping down. It is hoped that members will strongly consider stepping up to the plate.

Stacey Willey of Globe Printing was the afternoon speaker. She owns and operates Globe Printing in Ishpeming, Michigan where she specializes in helping people with layout design and printing coordination for self-published authors. Many in the group found Stacey Willey’s presentation very helpful.

The group seemed to think we should have a keynote

speaker again this spring. They suggested someone who could talk about writing and publishing in the digital age, leveraging the Internet to sell books and reach your audience. Following the meeting, Tyler Tichelarr, UPPAA president, suggested to the board asking Irene Watson. He’s known Irene for several years. She’s the owner of Reader Views, a full service book review, book promotion service. Irene is Tyler’s co-author (along with Victor) of the Authors Access book and they have been co-hosts of the Authors Access Internet radio show. Victor spoke to her professionalism and knowledge as well. If approved, it would be the first time for a female key note speaker.

The board approved checking into having her come. The spring meeting has been tentatively set for May 21, 2010, at the Peter White Library in Marquette.

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The Benefits of Being a Board Member

AN OPEN LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I complete my role as UPPAA President, I wish to take a minute to reflect upon and encourage participation in this wonderful organization. I have been a member of UPPAA since early 2006. From the first meeting I attended, I became involved, attending group book sales, participating in the yahoo group, and developing many friendships.

When I joined, I never dreamed I’d become president so

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(Benefits cont. from page 1)
quickly. In early 2007, webmaster Walt Shiel asked if I would serve on the board. I agreed to get my feet wet by being vice-president. I was given the job of organizing the annual conference for 2008. That meeting was a great success and I was thrilled with what had been accomplished. Then in June 2008, President Lisa Shiel decided to step down from her role and I became president by default. I felt a bit overwhelmed by the thought, but soon decided that being president could be a benefit to me, and I wanted my service to benefit to UPPAA. In 2009, I agreed to continue as president for another two year term which will end this coming spring. I will not run for re-election because I feel we need a diverse board, new ideas, and as much input from various members as possible. I fully intend to stay active in UPPAA and possibly serve on future boards.

As a UPPAA member, and board member, I've

reaped many benefits. While I have spent time planning conferences and meeting online with board members, I've also been the point of contact for members, prospective members, and outside organizations. Frequently, members have informed me of events in their area. I have then capitalized on these by recruiting other UPPAA members to help us give UPPAA a presence, whether it's a pioneer festival in Manistique or a UP History Conference in Ontonagon. I've also gotten to network with libraries and bookstores and other groups with whom UPPAA has a mutual interest. I have brought UPPAA brochures, recruited new members and spread the word about UPPAA so the organization could grow even stronger.

The greatest asset to being on the board has been the networking with the members. I want to thank all the board

members I have served with for all their work to make sure the conferences succeeded, the newsletters went out, the website flourished, and many other behind the scenes details were carried out. As president, I've been the face of UPPAA, but the president's role is really to serve the members, and I always had a board that helped make me and the organization look good.

When I mention UPPAA to authors and publishers not from the Upper Peninsula, they express to me how lucky we are to have such an organization. We have an exceptionally talented and enthusiastic group of members. I encourage all of you to think about serving on the board. We can all support each other and further our mutual and individual goals through this organization. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at president@uppaa.org. Many hands make light work.

Sincerely, Tyler R. Tichelaar

Keeping It Real: Creating Convincing Fiction

Tyler Tichelaar, author of five historical novels, discussed how to come up with effective stories, characters, and plots, how to organize your plots, keep track of your characters, and most importantly, not make any mistakes in your fictional "facts." He discussed different organizational strategies he and other authors use to create effective fiction and convincing characters, and answered questions about what does and doesn't work.

Three Principles for Effective Scenes:

Every scene in your novel (or short story) should do the following:

- Advance the plot.
- Develop one or more of the main characters.
- Enhance the theme (for example, if it's a historical novel, what historical elements are included in this scene?).

Suggested Reading to Create Effective Fiction:

- *The Art of Fiction* by Ayn Rand
- *Aspects of the Novel* by E.M. Forster
- *Willa Cather in Person:*

Interviews, Speeches, & Letters

- *On Writing* by Stephen King
- *10 Rules of Writing* by Elmore Leonard

Also, read, read, read! Books by authors (not just teachers) about writing are the best. Read the classic novels like *Gone With the Wind*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Bleak House*. Find the three or four you like best and ask yourself why they work. Read a few bad novels and ask yourself why they don't work—what would have made them better? How would you rewrite them?



Changes in Publishers Association May Benefit UPPAA Members

BY PRESIDENT TYLER TICHELAAR AND SCOTT FLORA

I am excited about the recent changes at the Small Publishers Association! SPA and SPAN can provide benefits to the Upper Peninsula Publishers & Authors Assoc. through a partner membership.

In January we launched SPANnet, our online community for publishers and authors. With over 1,300 members, SPANnet provides dynamic social media features including individual blogs, discussion groups, and sharing with other social media platforms. Members are encouraged to join the SPANnet Community and utilize this free resource at www.spannet.org. The online community changes both the way SPAN communicates with our members and also the way members communicate with each other. It is exciting to see peer teaching and learning going on every day.

Here are several ways we can work together:

1. Your organization can create and moderate a regional or topical discussion group to support your work. The groups are easy to manage and we can help set one up.

2. You can gain exposure to a wider audience with our Events Calendar. You can announce events and can post your events directly in the Events module in the lower left corner of the www.spannet.org home page.

3. One of the benefits of Upper Peninsula Publishers & Authors Assoc. being a SPAN Partner Member is your members may become paid members of SPAN at the reduced rate of \$60 (New membership is normally \$89). The paid member part of the SPAN website is now called SPANpro. The SPANpro web pages hold the education program and group buying

discount information. Leaders in your organization have been given a membership in SPANpro. Tyler can provide information on how to log on.

Since 1996, the Small Publishers Association of North America has been teaching authors and publishers how to build more successful writing and publishing businesses. As a nonprofit trade association, SPAN provides education, advocacy, and group buying discounts.

SPAN has two levels of membership: SPANnet free memberships and SPANpro paid memberships. SPANpro members pay to access SPAN's premium content, including extensive articles, newsletter archives, audio and webinar recordings, and group buying benefits.

For more information, go to www.SPANnet.org or contact SPAN at 719-475-1726.

Pod Cast Available to Members

On September 16th, 2010 Tyler R. Tichelaar and Victor R. Volkman spoke with author, social worker, and busy mom Valerie Bradley-Holiday, PhD. Valerie's doctorate degree is from The Union Institute and University, a distance-learning program based in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her specialization is Social Psychology. She has a Master of Social Work Degree from Wayne State University. Valerie shared with us critical items to success as a writer and working mom:

- Time management: keeping it all together
- Respect for yourself and your craft as an artist
- Professionalism and its importance in producing quality products
- Dealing with frustrations and setbacks
- Accepting success and being prepared to act on it
- Self-publishing perils and benefits of using it.

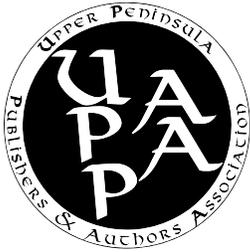
Download the free podcast at tinyurl.com/vbhol. Authors Access: 30 Success Secrets for Authors and Publishers authorsaccess.com/success-secrets. Follow Us on Twitter: twitter.com/vvolkman

Member News

Tyler's new book has been released. Visit www.MarquetteFiction.com for more information.

Deborah K. Frontiera's book, *Living on Sisu: The 1913 Union Copper Strike Tragedy* is a finalist for the Purple Dragonfly Awards to be given by the Arizona Author's Association on Nov. 6, 2010. Watch the list serve and her Face Book page for the big announcement.





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4TH QUARTER 2010

(Keeping It Real cont. from page 2)

How to Keep Track of the Details:

1. Interview Your Characters – ask them questions about themselves. Name, birth, parents, place where born, marriages, children, favorite books, movies, goals, worst thing that ever happened to them, one thing that if fixed would make life better, etc.

2. Keep a character fact sheet/biography of them with all this information. Don't forget physical description. You don't want Mary to have blue eyes on p. 38 and brown eyes on p. 121 (unless she's wearing colored contacts, in which case you better tell the reader that).

Refer back to and update as needed.

3. Find a calendar.

Plot out the events of your novel in a specific year, month, or week. Even if you don't tell your reader your book takes place from July 18, 2001-August 3, 2003, you will find that doing so makes the book more real in your mind. Make sure if you use dates and say it is Friday, December 3, 1987, that the 3rd really was a Friday.

4. Research the time period you choose. Remember everything is suspect. Did they have six-packs of beer in the 1960s? What year was the Golden Gate Bridge erected? In 1849, was Marquette named Marquette? There are many outside resources Tyler will be happy to tell members about. Simply contact him.

Writing Software Programs

— Prices run \$28-\$300 for a program. For pros and cons of different programs, visit: www.creative-writing-software-review.toptenreviews.com/ The features of these programs include just about every topic an author might want to improve his or her style.

Point of View – Multiple Characters' Lives:

Even if your book is in third person, or in first person told by one character, all your characters are alive and active and doing something while the others are doing something else. People's lives happen simultaneously. Make a chart illustrating the key moments in their lives, by day month or year.

FROM TYLER TICHELAR'S
CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

