

# *The MANA Sunset*

*October 2015*



## *In This Issue:*

Autumn is just around the corner and so are some great things going on at MANA. Lots of books are up and coming! Read further on for a sneak peek at the books coming from MANA in the next couple months. I hope all you readers get helpful tips from my page of the newsletter. If you ever have suggestions or specific writing questions you'd like me to address, I invite you to send them to [hollyta@umich.edu](mailto:hollyta@umich.edu). I, also, invite you to contact MANA for a life coach/writing coach. MANA offers the support of Dr. C.--a long-term staff member of MANA. You will get an idea of what she can do by reading her blog at [marketingnewauthors.com](http://marketingnewauthors.com) and clicking on "A Writer's Sunrise."

Enjoy the October issue and Happy Writing!

## *Submit Your Work!*



Just a friendly reminder that you can gain some good publicity for your work by submitting to this newsletter, *The MANA Sunset*, as well as the serial blog on MANA's website (a minimum of five installments to be published in monthly intervals). It costs nothing. Your copyrights are retained by you, and you can expose your work to a wide audience. We hope to get your submissions soon! All works will be anonymously refereed. This will be a tremendous opportunity for aspiring authors to have a large audience read their works.

Send inquiries and stories to [info@marketingnewauthors.com](mailto:info@marketingnewauthors.com).



## *MANA's New Releases!*

MANA has recently taken on a handful of marketing projects. Below, you can read about these books and their authors. This is a unique undertaking--showing another side of publishing that MANA can handle. Marketing is a key aspect of publishing, and these authors have entrusted MANA with their books. Many of the books featured here will become available at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention. Check them out on MANA's website, [marketingnewauthors.com](http://marketingnewauthors.com)! By November, these will all be shown on the MANA website, [marketingnewauthors.com](http://marketingnewauthors.com)!

### *The Medici Heirs by Rita Juliana Scott*

This novel is set during the Italian Renaissance. Later, it moves to the 20th century providing the fictional twists and turns with spirits, the power of greed, and the strength in character of the last of the heirs, a female Ph.D. with grit. For historians, this work can prove most intriguing due to the the interwoven mixture of fact and fiction. This work will be released as an e-book during late fall at the booth #205 of [MarketingNewAuthors.com](http://MarketingNewAuthors.com) (MANA) at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention (NCTE) in Minneapolis, MN, November 20-22 in the Minneapolis Convention Center.

### *Redball Mission by T. Patrick Devlin*

This work concerns a Viet Nam vet and his continuous survival coping with PTSD. However, this narrative is a powerful literary picture into the lives of many of the veterans that have come home from the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. Families, who haven't a clue how to give meaningful support and understanding, must read this book. Therapists, who need a resource that can serve well in group sessions, will find this book a strong catalyst for discussion. And this is a book for the general public to understand more poignantly what many men and women are experiencing upon their transition to civilian life and the reason they have earned and deserve this nation's support and continuous gratitude. This work will make its major debut at the NCTE Convention at MANA's booth.







*The Continuing Adventures of a Middle-Aged Man,  
The Unsung Hero by Russ Grimes*

This is the second book detailing the exploits of Randy Grimes. Grimes goes to work and comes home providing loving support to his wife and children. Yet, in addition, this ordinary man does extraordinary things--saves his country and, sometimes, the world! This superhero is one many adults will be able to relate to. Also, children will enjoy this unassuming hero. This work is for sale on the MANA website. It will be at the MANA booth at the NCTE with the first edition about Grimes's experiences—*The Adventures of a Middle-Aged Man*.

*Keira and Me by Marsay Wells-Strozier*

For children and adults trying to learn one of the most challenging concepts of the English language—homonyms and homophones—this book is perfect! Along with Keira and her aunt, Keira's classmates are many of the endangered species animals of this world. A second focus of this work emerges—appreciation and respect for not only human but animal life. This work is offered in Spanish and Arabic. The color drawings are bright, and the storyline is engaging. This is a work for teachers in all settings. The book will make its major debut at the NCTE Convention at MANA's booth.

*The Importance of Cabo Verde in a Global Context  
by Marcel G. Balla*

For too long, the real story of those who contributed to the discovery and development of the Americas has not been told. This book changes that! It provides concrete documentation of the contribution of Cabo Verde and Cape Verdeans to America. For more than five centuries, this contribution by Cape Verdeans has been ignored. Revelations in this work will arouse a strong interest by Hispanic and African communities in North and South America. Finally, the whole world will learn the total truth about the discovery of the Americas. This work will make a late fall debut.



## Quote of the Month



“Oh, magic hour, when a child first knows it can read printed words!”

*Betty Smith*

## MANA Short Story Series

In the spirit of old radio series, when folks gained most of their entertainment by listening to radio serials and reading continuing series in weekly and monthly magazines, MANA currently offers a short story series. Thus far, MANA has featured the following works and currently has three ongoing serials:

~“Family—That Says It All” by Carol Brown (352 followers)

~“Minimized” by Cheryl Orth (introduced in late August now has 359 followers)

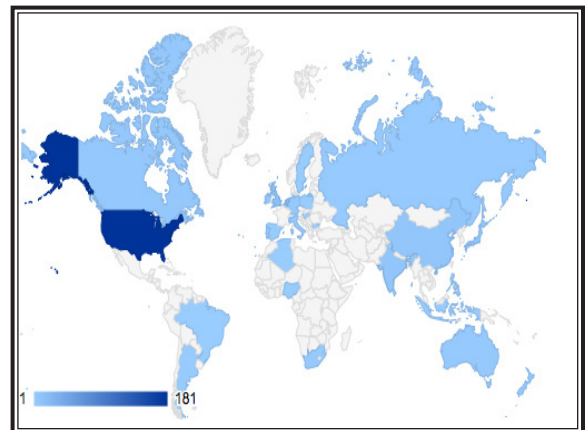
~“Not My Kid—Confessions of a Reluctant Step-Parent” anonymous (debuted two weeks ago and has 65 followers)

~ “Captain Ambrose & the Airship Pirates” by Kyle D. Bonds. This is one of the children’s short stories contained in the publication, *Community College Students’ Literary Collage* edited by Fairy C. Hayes-Scott, Ph.D.. Thus far, it has 292 followers.

## Map of MANA’s Reach

This map shows how far MANA’s readership and followers extend on a world map!

\*areas marked in blue, light and dark, signify the areas of origin of MANA’s readers/followers





*A Letter From the Editor:*

Dear Readers,

This month I offer you practical wisdom for revising. I remain fixated with this topic because it's my biggest struggle as a writer. The other day I had a friend read through a story I'd just written. I was shocked with myself for how defensive I became as the friend offered me his insights into making the story better. We share common interests in literature and writing style--needless to say, I was astonished at my own deference. Don't guard your words like a protective mother. Heed the advice of what others tell you and take your writing to the next level.

Don't be blinded by illusions of grandeur. Remain humble about your writing. Keep yourself open and your mind willing to bend. However, keep your readership in mind. If you don't enjoy or find merit in the writing of the person giving you criticism, stay polite, but don't plan to implement their suggestions. Part of writing and life in general is knowing whom to listen to and whom to ignore. Not everyone is out to build you up and make you the best writer you can be.

I offer three points of revision to ask yourself before you consider unleashing your work into the world:

- 1) **Are there parts of the text that you aren't confident about, but haven't removed?** If yes, focus on rewriting those. If it seems unclear to you, it certainly will be to a reader.
- 2) **Are there words/sentences/paragraphs that don't contribute to the story?** If so, get rid of them. Edit at the level of the sentence. Don't jumble the text with unnecessary embellishments. Think of writing as a stand-up comedy: You only have the audience's attention for so long, so don't do anything to distract or lose the audience's steady focus.
- 3) **Do you rely too heavily on adjectives and adverbs for description?** If the prose can't stand on its own without dozens and dozens of modifiers, you need to work harder to describe scenes, characters, and actions.



*Happy Writing!*