

The MANA Sunset

A Newsletter for Writers-February 2014

Feb. 2014, Volume 1

Announcements for the New Year

The year is off to a great start at MANA! Over the holidays, senior author Doris A. Zarzycki's *GOD'S GIFT TO ME I SHARE WITH YOU* made its debut. It is a beautiful collection of inspirational works that apply to all aspects of life. Check this work out!

Call for Writers!

MANA is currently calling for writers from ages ten through 17 to submit stories. Story length must be no more than 500 words. The document must be submitted as a Microsoft Word file. All papers must be received by April 2, 2014. A single writer may have no more than three separate submissions. The submitted work will be reviewed by MANA staff. Submitted works will appear in this newsletter, *THE MANA SUNSET*. Good luck!

Passion for Poetry

The Passion for Poetry Poet of the Year for 2014 is Elesia Powell. She is an adjunct instructor at Mott Community College (Flint, MI) teaching freshman composition. She is a University of Michigan - Flint graduate with a Master's degree in Composition/Rhetoric. She is also the winner of the prestigious Hopwood award from the University of Michigan. The Hopwood Program administers the Avery Hopwood and Julie Hopwood Awards in writing, awarding prizes each year for creative non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. Elesia currently has a self-published CD of poetry and prose. Her travels throughout the United States, Europe, and the West Indies are reflected throughout her writings.

Tips and Tricks for Writers

I have selected three of my favorite pointers for anyone beginning to write fiction. The tips come from an article that was posted on the website of The Huffington Post. For the complete list of pointers, visit www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/27/writing-tips-advice-fiction-authors_n_1628537.html. Enjoy these tips and keep them in mind when writing!

1.) Know your audience. Beginners sometimes want to appeal to the widest audience possible and so try to write for everyone. As a result, they let their work run off in too many directions and end up with a muddled mess of a story. But you can't please everyone—a story that appeals to city-dwelling twenty-somethings won't necessarily catch the fancy of a middle-aged man from the suburbs. Once you accept that, you can focus all of your energy on writing for the readers who will appreciate your hard work that much more.

2.) Show, don't tell. Beginners often make the mistake of explaining what is happening instead of simply showing the reader. Think of it as the difference between watching a movie and having a friend describe a movie to you.

Rather than having the narrator mention that one character spent the night in jail for egging a neighbor's car, give the reader the play-by-play of the character laughing gleefully while throwing the eggs (underhand, of course, because they were on the bowling team). Then show them crying to the point of hiccups when the cops slap on the handcuffs. This will paint a much more vivid picture for your readers and, therefore, make the story more enjoyable.

3.) Create real characters. Make your characters human—give them nervous tics, phobias, a funny way of messing up clichés. Some of the most memorable stories have three-dimensional characters that readers can feel strongly about in some way. For example: A heroine who has to overcome her deep-seated fears before she can get what she wants is much more appealing than one who just breezes through without struggle. The former's conflict is relatable (who isn't held back by their fears?), therefore her victory will be that much more satisfying. The same logic applies to antagonists. Why do we love to hate Othello's Iago? Because his actions come from emotions we all know we're capable of feeling: jealousy, insecurity, etc.

MANA Mondays

On each Monday of the given month, interested writers should submit their work in correspondence with the theme for that particular month. Why submit on Mondays? MANA currently offers a special 20% publication discount for work submitted under these themes on Mondays in 2014. The theme for February will be Romance, and for March the theme is Sports/Outdoors. For a complete list of the themes for the new year and specific pricing please visit marketingnewauthors.com.

MANA Minute

Our new program, the MANA Minute, offers an opportunity for people to advertise their products, books, and services via MANA's blog. The slots open for purchase are either up to 30 seconds or 31-60 seconds long and will air for a month on the blog. This marketing tool is priced very reasonably, considering how costly slots cost on radio and television stations. This great advertising possibility is slotted to begin in mid-March. For additional information visit marketingnewauthors.com.

MANA Interviews / Readings

MANA offers another great advertising opportunity for writers who have already published or plan to publish a book(s)! To anyone seeking an advertising opportunity for their work, MANA presents the chance for an author to have selections from his/her book read aloud on MANA's website. This program also offers authors a chance to be interviewed. The readings/interviews will begin in February. The two plans are explained in detail below:

The Silver Plan: Up to a 10-minute read of the author's work and/or an interview by the author conducted by a staff member of MANA. The author will also receive a fully-licensed MP3 for their use. \$99.95 plus a set-up fee of \$5.

The Gold Plan: All that is included in the Silver Plan. The interview and/or readings will appear on the MANA website for seven months, in addition to being available for a listen 24/7. The MANA website will include a link to the author's webpage or book site as well. \$149.95 plus set-up charge of \$5

*MANA Celebrating Black History Month
and
All Cultures of the World--
A Special Call for Writers*

MANA wants to expand on the celebration of Black History Month and this month's dedication to the lovers of the world. MANA invites writers of any ethnic culture to submit their love poetry, collection of love short stories, or a manuscript that highlights the expression of love between people of a particular ethnic culture, African American, Native American, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Chinese, Japanese, Irish, Italian, just to name a few of the many.

Ethnic romance works submitted between Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, MANA offers a 25% discount off any self-publishing plan offered by MANA. Just pay a down payment of \$250 to reserve a space on the MANA schedule.

For more information about any item posted in this newsletter, contact MANA at 734-975-0028 or info@marketingnewauthors.com.