

# *The MANA Sunset*

*April Issue, 2016*



*In This Issue:*



Little robins twitter; delicate green buds poke shyly from branches; and spring is nearly upon us! At MANA, we're celebrating too--not only the milder weather and the changing of seasons, but the longevity of MANA's parent company, Robbie Dean Press. In this issue, as we've been doing, we feature the works of writers who contribute to MANA's Short Story Series. We also feature the work of Dr.C, who will share her life of experience with teaching on the MANA Blog webpage in a series of posts, ranging from an adolescent voice to an adult voice. Enjoy the issue and check out [marketingnewauthors.com](http://marketingnewauthors.com) to read more from the featured authors!

## *Reason to Celebrate!*

The parent company of [MarketingNewAuthors.com](http://MarketingNewAuthors.com), Robbe Dean Press, will celebrate its 25th year of service in the publishing industry. In the spirit of celebration, RDP will be offering a FREE publishing seminar on April 20, 6:00 to 7:30 at the Holiday Inn in Ann Arbor, MI on Plymouth Rd., just off US-23. This seminar will cover the following:

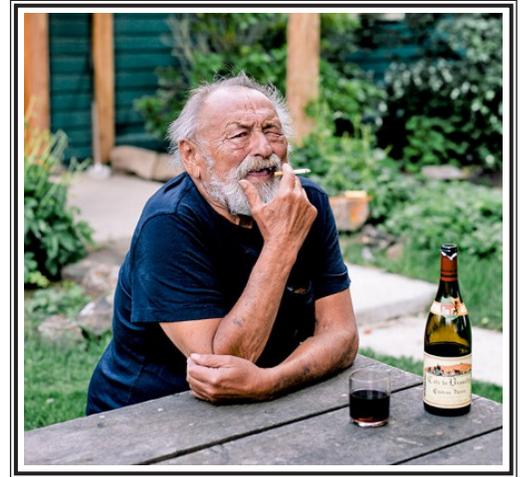


- Help writers overcome writer's block
- Help writers clearly understand the publishing process for self-publishing and textbook publishing
- Help writers go forth with clear marketing strategies

# Quote of the Month

“The only advice I can give to aspiring writers is don't do it unless you're willing to give your whole life to it. Red wine and garlic also helps.”

~*Jim Harrison*



## Featured Works

The MANA Short Story Series adds another five installments for the next five months by Ms. Cheryl Orth. Her first short story series, “Minimized” garnered over 650 followers. Here, an excerpt from her piece, “Apologies”:

*She is meeting an old girlfriend after twenty years, and her vainness wants to make sure she looks the same as she did then. Beth can't help wondering what the hell Shelly wants to see her for anyways. She already wrote Beth a letter and called her to “forgive” her. Beth still cannot believe it. Forgive Beth? She should forgive herself for being a promiscuous person.*

...And within the next month, Professor Richarde Donelan will contribute to a blog entry on the MANA Short Story Series. In his work, Donelan will write entries that discuss the importance of accepting loss, not just loss through death, but loss of friendships, loss of one's employment, or loss of one particular stage of life, etc. Donelan's voice offers a different approach to prose than the usual works featured. Check out his work soon!



### Dr. C's New Blog

Dr. C has written a new blog on the MANA Blog. Rather than a blog of her experiences teaching students in her metaphor as a captain, these entries will be diary entries. They begin when she was thirteen and span into adulthood. “Bishop” is whom she wrote to; he is her guardian angel:

*Dear Bishop (Day One, Age 13): Today was not a good day. Mommy and Daddy had a fight. Gee, I wish that would not have happened. It is quiet now. Daddy left. Mommy is trying to get the house back in order. I pray when Daddy returns home, they do not fight again. Mommy could sense my fear, but, as always, she just hugged me and said everything would be all right. And she would always emphasize that Daddy was a good man who loved me in spite of what I had seen.*

*Dear Bishop (Day Two, Age 13): Daddy returned yesterday. He was not grumpy. There was just that silence. Mommy fixed dinner. We ate. That was it. Well, not quite. Later on, Daddy would talk to me and would always say, “Although your mother and I may not always get along, she is a good woman.”*

*Reflections: I would go to bed every night praying that they would not fuss and fight. I continued that prayer, even when they stopped their fisticuffs, until the day they both passed (after over 55 years of marriage), and even beyond. I guess it had become such a habit for me that I had to stop myself and keep in mind that God had taken them. Also, even in those many years I witnessed what, now is called domestic violence, I knew that Daddy loved my mother more than any man could. And I knew Mother cared for Daddy. Um, that is when I began to learn and come to understand just how unique the institution of marriage is. And when folks say: “I don't know why she or he won't leave,” I realize that no one will really understand unless S/HE is actually IN that marriage.*



## *MANA Gives Back*

MarketingNewAuthors.com is so very committed to helping people who want to become writers as well as those who are writers be able to market their work. And so, within the next two weeks MANA will provide online courses on its site. There will be fifteen lessons

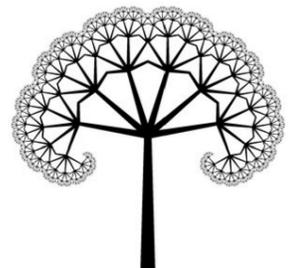
These lessons will be for the following:

- a) beginning writers
- b) published experienced writers
- c) small independent publishers

After 25 years in the publishing industry, Dr. Fairy C. Hayes-Scott will be conducting the audio visual and podcast lessons. So, for those who feel s/he needs to take these lessons, go to the MANA Blog and find the general audio-visual presentation providing an introduction for the lessons that will be a part of the course. The lessons will be able to taken singularly for \$50; sets of five for \$150; or the full fifteen lessons for \$299. And if a student does not receive the instruction as outlined, which will be doubtful, the student will receive a refund of 1/2 of what s/he has paid.

## *MANA's Designated Charity, The Flint Water Crisis*

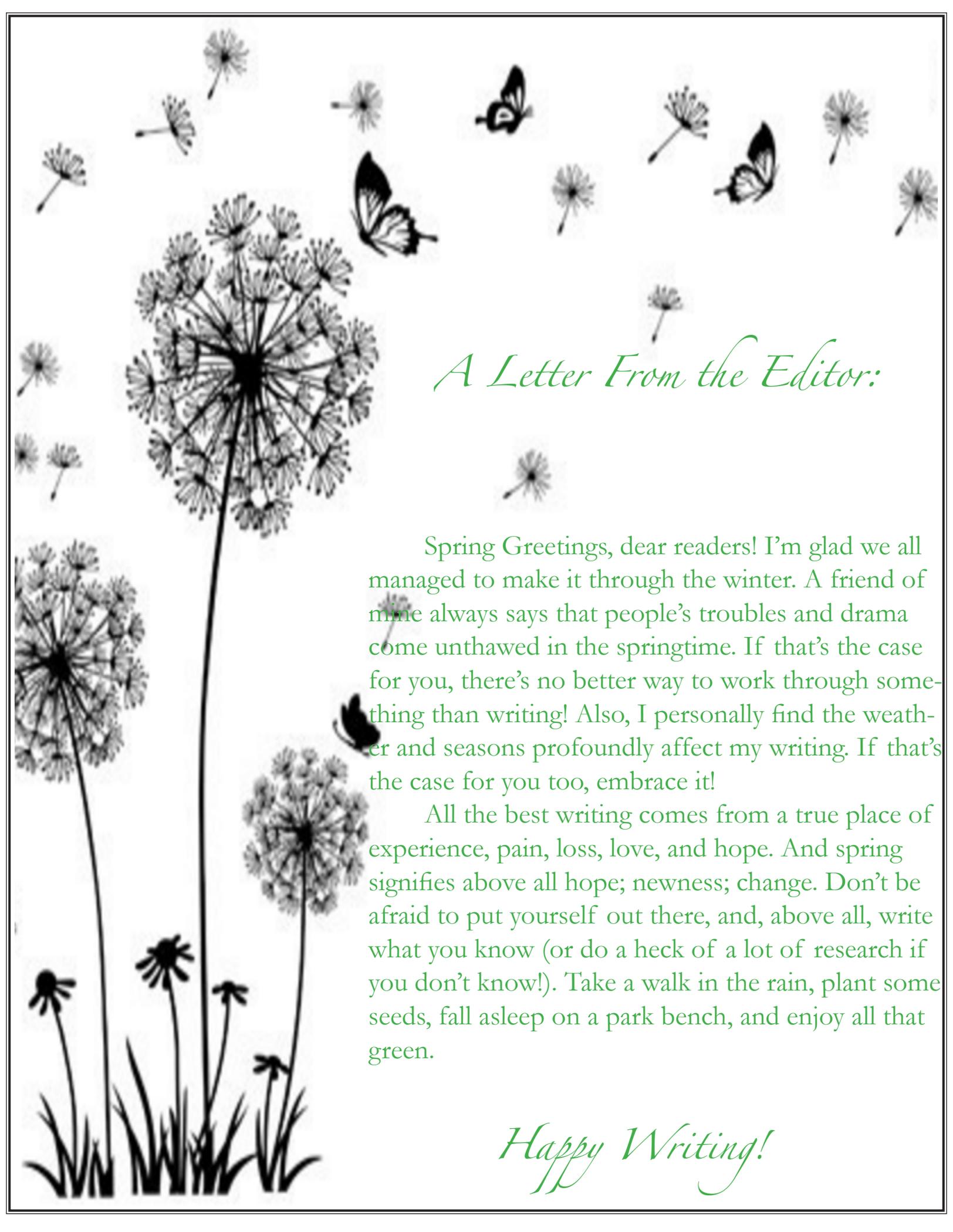
MANA has designated its 2016 charity the citizens of Flint, MI who are currently dealing with a water crisis. For all of 2016, MANA will donate 10% of proceeds to the Flint Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority. This chapter of this national sorority boasts over 200,000 members and has been a consistent force in the Flint community. We encourage all who can to continue donating resources and water to the people of Flint.





*“When proud-pied April, dress’d all in his trim  
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”*

~Sonnet 98, William Shakespeare



*A Letter From the Editor:*

Spring Greetings, dear readers! I'm glad we all managed to make it through the winter. A friend of mine always says that people's troubles and drama come unthawed in the springtime. If that's the case for you, there's no better way to work through something than writing! Also, I personally find the weather and seasons profoundly affect my writing. If that's the case for you too, embrace it!

All the best writing comes from a true place of experience, pain, loss, love, and hope. And spring signifies above all hope; newness; change. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there, and, above all, write what you know (or do a heck of a lot of research if you don't know!). Take a walk in the rain, plant some seeds, fall asleep on a park bench, and enjoy all that green.

*Happy Writing!*

