

# Lpwordsolutions Newsletter

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

Writing ~ Editing ~ Consulting ~ Workshops  
Feb. 2006

Special Issue  
*Surrey Reads & Writes*  
Sat. Feb. 4, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Guildford Library  
Details: [www.spl.surrey.bc.ca](http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca)

The LPwordsolutions newsletter is published monthly in Surrey, BC. 604.596.1601  
[lpwordsolutions@hotmail.com](mailto:lpwordsolutions@hotmail.com)  
Editor: Lois Peterson  
Contributor:  
Jennifer Sommersby Young

Send us your short articles, book reviews, recommended websites, and market, contest & event listings.

## In this issue

**Markets p. 1**

**Q&A p. 2**

*Publishing Poetry*

**Contests p. 2**

**Book Review p. 3**

*Six-Figure Freelancing*

**Announcements p. 3**

**Events p. 3**

**Writing Tip of the Month p. 4**

*Words at Work*

**Websites p. 4**

## Markets

**Maisonneuve** online magazine seeks fiction 3,000-4,000 words.

[www.maisonneuve.org/](http://www.maisonneuve.org/)

**Bear Delux**, the magazine of a nonprofit organization using the creative arts to explore environmental issues, seeks fiction, articles, and essays.

[www.orlo.org/](http://www.orlo.org/)

**Bluesuit Mom** helps executive working mothers find work and family balance. Seeking information from experts in a variety of fields relating to working mothers.

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

**Dreams Alive** 'the home and garden online magazine' seeks regular contributors for a number of their columns (all articles must include pics). Also accepts poetry, fiction, recipes.

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

**Verbatim - Language and linguistics for the layperson**, seeks lively articles on jargon and grammar. Pays \$25-\$500.

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



## Editor's Notes

New in this second issue of the revamped **LPwordsolutions newsletter** is a book review column by Jennifer Sommersby Young. Every month she'll review a writing-related book, and we'll pass along publication information so you can track down a copy for yourself.

We've also included in our resource sidebars a list of websites mentioned in this issue. This saves space in the articles themselves, and collects the URLs in one place in case you missed the original article where they were mentioned.

If resources listed here seem Internet-heavy, it's because the Web has become a tool that few writers can do without. It offers much more current information than many print directories, as well as articles, tips, and all kinds of reference information.

If you're not yet online at home, consider using your local library's free computers to keep up to date with what's happening in the writing and reading world.

Speaking of which – this newsletter complements much of the information posted at my website, where you'll find lists of resources and links to all kinds of writing-related material. If you'd like to recommend a website or other resource, or comment on the newsletter, contact me at

[lpwordsolutions@hotmail.com](mailto:lpwordsolutions@hotmail.com).

A stylized, handwritten-style logo consisting of the letters 'LP' in a large, bold font, with 'WS' in a smaller font to the right.

*"All words are pegs to hang ideas on."  
Henry Ward Beecher*

## Contests

### *Neat concept – check this out:*

**February 26 deadline** for **Leafbooks** writing for children under 10. 3,000 words max. Entry fee £5; Prize £200 + publication as a Leafbook.  
*also*

**March 31 deadline - Leafbooks** short story contest. £5 per entry, prizes £200 / £50 + publication as a Leafbook.

[www.leafbooks.co.uk/index.asp](http://www.leafbooks.co.uk/index.asp)

**Feb. 28 deadline – Highlights for Children.** Stories that explore the true spirit of holiday celebrations. Three prizes of \$1,000 each. Stories may be any length up to 800 words.  
[www.highlights.com](http://www.highlights.com)

### **Fish Publishing contests:**

€1,000 for top story + publication,  
€100 for runners-up + pub.  
€12 entry fee each contest.

- **Mar 4 deadline – One Page Short Story Prize.**  
250 words max.

- **Mar 31 deadline – Poetry Prize**  
Open subject, no length limit.  
[www.fishpublishing.com](http://www.fishpublishing.com)

## Announcements

**The League of Canadian Poets** is accepting reading proposals for National Poetry Month. Deadline: **February 16, 2006.** Theme: Poetry for Everyone. [www.poets.ca/](http://www.poets.ca/)

### **Surreywriters newsgroup**

Stay in touch with other writers, share market information, and discuss craft:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/surreywriters/>

### **February 14, 2006 - 7 p.m.**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with romance writers. Kate Austin (Surrey writing instructor), Nancy Warren, Susan Lyons, and Mary J. Forbes at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch.

[www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca)

### **Mon. Feb. 20, 7 p.m.**

**Getting Published: Everything You Wanted to Know About Getting Published as a Children's Book Writer or Illustrator.** Main Branch Vancouver Public Library. Details: [www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca)

## Q & A

### **Q. Over the past four years, I've written enough poems to fill a book. Now I'd like to get them published. Where do I start?**

**A.** It can be a real challenge to get published if you've never been published. Sounds tricky, doesn't it? But the idea with poetry is to get individual poems published in journals and literary magazines *before* approaching a publisher with your collected works. (This is a good rule of thumb for short story writers, too.)

You'll find comprehensive lists of suitable markets online at *New Pages* and *Places for Writers* (see the sidebar of website addresses). Or pick up a copy of the *Poet's Market* (published by Writer's Digest) to learn who's publishing what.

If and when you feel confident in approaching a publisher to ask them to consider a collection of your poetry, first check out some collections in your local library. Then track down publisher's information online or in the *Poet's Market* to learn about their submission requirements.

If you've been writing solo, without feedback from other writers or editors, a couple of poetry handbooks will help you refine your craft. *Poetry Handbook* by Mary Oliver (Pulitzer prize-winning poet) is a real gem, containing lots of useful insights; *Writing Personal Poetry* by



Sheila Bender offers good advice and examples; and Michael Bugeja's *The Art and Craft of Poetry* can be used as a workbook to help you develop your skills in the various forms of poetry, and offers strategies for writing about all kinds of subjects.

It's amazing how many poets read very little poetry. Try an anthology of work by a variety of writers such as *The New Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in English* (editor Margaret Atwood).

A good way to air your poetry and develop public reading skills is by participating the various Open Mike events around town, many of which are listed on the West End Writers website (check listing on p.4). And don't overlook contests as a way to get your work read. Use their deadlines as a way to motivate your writing, and for a chance to win cash and recognition for your work. *Poets and Writers* lists contests in their print magazine as well as on their website. **Good luck.**

*Next issue: Writing for Free*

---

Send your writing or publishing question for the Q&A column to [lpwordssolutions@hotmail.com](mailto:lpwordssolutions@hotmail.com) with 'Q&A' in the subject line. And if you have any further comments about this month's topics, pass them along and I'll publish them in the next issue.

---

## Events

Surrey travel writer **Margaret Deefholts** presents travel tales based on her adventures and experiences in India.

Great pictures and lots of good stories and information.

**7-9 p.m. at Guildford Park School, 10707-146 St.**

**\$12 per presentation**

- Thurs. Feb. 2

*The Great Cities of India*

- Thurs. Feb. 9

*Journeys Through Sacred India – Part One*

- Tues. Feb. 14

*Journeys Through Sacred India Part Two*

- Thurs. Feb. 23

*Forts & Palaces of Rajasthan*

Register online [www.ce.sd36.ca](http://www.ce.sd36.ca) or 604-589-2221

## Freedom to Read Week

Feb. 26 – Mar 4



Not everyone, everywhere has the privilege of reading what they like. Canada itself has a long history of censorship.

**Freedom to Read Week** supports everyone's right to choose their own reading material, and promotes activities that further this goal.

Ask about local Freedom to Read activities in your local bookstore or library and check the website.

[www.freedomtoread.ca/](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/) for more details.



**Federation of BC Writers hires new Executive Director**

**Fernanda Viveiros** has been appointed the Fed's new ED. She's served as Lower Mainland Rep. for the past few years and works for Ronsdale Press.

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



## Pages ~ *Reviews by Jennifer Sommersby Young*

***Six-Figure Freelancing: The Writer's Guide to Making More Money* by Kelly James-Enger**

Pub. Random House Reference / ISBN 0375720952 / \$21

In *Six-Figure Freelancing*, a former attorney turned full-time freelancer systematically details in under 300 pages how to go from wanna-be to published freelancing hero without glossing over what could be the hardest professional transition you might ever make. And she provides a power-packed arsenal of tools so you don't lose your nerve along the way.

In her debut year as a freelancer, James-Enger pulled in \$17,000 US—not bad for someone with no writing or journalism background. With her “PMA” (Positive Mental Attitude) at the ready, she learned to play the game from scratch. By her sixth year of freelancing, she hit six figures with an impressive resume of articles, non-fiction and fiction titles, and public appearances.

The key, James-Enger says, is to treat writing as a business rather than simply as a hobby. By understanding the rules of the game, savvy freelancers maximize tax deductions, set realistic, achievable goals, develop a professional persona, and create a streamlined system for a smooth transition from query to payment.

The author's enthusiasm for her readership's freelancing success is palpable. Within the first four chapters (and again in Chapter 11), she provides questionnaires and worksheets to help lay the groundwork for the budding freelance career. She presents this by inviting Reality to stop in for tea, i.e. don't quit that day job to become a full-time writer if it means risking eviction.

The most savory chapters for newbies (and for those in-the-game freelancers needing some nourishment for their underweight careers) cover how to create a client base, search for markets, deal with payment, contracts, and copyright, how to write irresistible queries, and how to brainstorm knock 'em dead article ideas. James-Enger also covers the basics, such as office set-up, the outside-office vs. work-at-home debate, and vital childcare for Mom & Dad Freelancers.

The author further stresses the need for diversification, having herself established a consistent cash flow writing health & fitness pieces for major magazines (*Self*, *Fitness*, and *Family Circle*), copy writing for corporate clients and non-profits, and lecturing at colleges and writing conferences.

She emphasizes the Number One Rule for Freelancers: NETWORK! If you're the introverted sort who wants to hide in the garret, freelancing may not be a comfortable fit. James-Enger herself doesn't shy away from information-sharing and camaraderie, and strongly suggests that you don't, either.

Although the resource appendix is a short six pages, James-Enger lists topical, up-to-date books, web sites, and organizations relevant to all writers - freelance and hobbyists. Even the writer's soul is looked after with a couple of inspirational titles to center that creative chi.

In *Six-Figure Freelancing*, this successful freelancer doesn't pull any punches: the Faint of Heart need not apply. But resourceful self-starters willing to slog through the lion's share of rejection? YOU will find as much success as you can query—just don't forget to seal that SASE with a healthy helping of PMA.

---

*Jenn Sommersby Young likes books (and kids) and has lots of both.*

*In the midst of the chaos, she finds time to write deep philosophical musings and neglect her houseplants. A lifelong cat devotee, you can find her pouting ringside at dog shows while her daughter and the beagles trot around gaily.*

*Upcoming courses from the  
Surrey Creative Writing  
Diploma Program  
Building Your*

**Professional Platform**  
Sat. Feb. 4

**MS Word for Writers**  
Sat. Feb. 11

**Grammar & Punctuation**  
Tues. Feb. 21-28

**Save Money on Your Taxes – the  
business side of creativity**  
Sat. Feb. 25

**The Art of the Memoir**  
Wed. Mar 1 - 22

**Irresistible Query Letters**  
Thurs. Mar. 2-16

**Writing With Power**  
Sat. Mar. 25

**Brainstorming Brilliant Bios**  
Sat. Mar. 25

*Complete details at  
[www.lpwordsolutions.com](http://www.lpwordsolutions.com)  
Online registration:  
[www.ce.sd36.bc.ca/](http://www.ce.sd36.bc.ca/)*

## Websites

noted in this issue:

**Freedom to Read Week**

[www.freedomtoread.ca/](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/)

**Margaret Deefholts Place**

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

**Places for Writers**

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

**New Pages – Alternatives in Print  
& Media**

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

**West End Writers**

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

**Writers Write**

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

**Poets & Writers**

[www.pw.org/](http://www.pw.org/)

**Federation of BC Writers**

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

## *Recommended Website of the Month*

**Miss Snark, Literary Agent**

<http://misssnark.blogspot.com/>

*"In which Miss Snark vents her wrath  
on the hapless world of writers and  
crushes them to sand beneath her  
T.Rexual heels of stiletto snark."*

Sounds like it's all fun, and a great daily  
read, too. But you'll also unearth some  
very useful information in the process.

## Writing Tip of the Month

### *Words at Work*



When we're not at home working on poetry, fiction and articles, many of us are engaged in some kind of writing activities at work. It's impossible to describe all the whys and wherefores of business writing, but here are a few tips:

**1. Know your reader.** Having a good idea of who your reader is will help your writing be more easily read, understood, and responded to.

**2. Know what you want the reader to do with the information.** Do you want your reader to act, to buy, to sign up, to give money, or to know? (Of all the categories this is the most challenging. How do you know they now know what you wanted them to know?)

**3. Use the principles of Plain Language to get your message across.**

- Use short words rather than long ones.
- Use short sentences rather than long ones.
- Avoid jargon unless you're sure your reader understands it.
- Use the active voice rather than the passive voice.
- Use personal pronouns.
- Break up long paragraphs into shorter ones.
- Use headings, lists, and tables or charts to organize detailed information into digestible chunks.

**4. Watch your language.** Read aloud what you've just written. Ask yourself if it sounds like you, can you read it without getting out of breath, have you buried the most important information somewhere deep in the middle? (The beginnings and ends of sentences, paragraphs, and documents get the most attention).

**6. Consider the vehicle.** Memos, news releases, brochures, ads, and annual reports each have specific demands that need to be considered when you're writing and/or formatting them. Consider who's the intended reader? How will they use the information? How will you get it into their hands? Is the 'piece' you have in mind going to reach the people you want to read it? Is its appearance going to be able to compete with all the other print material that falls into their hands?

**7. Test drive your writing.** Find a handful of the kind of readers you're writing for, and get them to critique your piece and to let you know what's missing, what's confusing, and what they need to know more about.

**8. Pro^o^read carefully.** The best person to proofread your work before you hit <Print> is someone who's not been involved in writing it. They may catch errors and typos you overlooked and perhaps catch something you omitted.

**9. Learn a few basic elements of graphic design for better readability:** Put the most important info in the top left and bottom right hand corners of the page. Don't use all upper case. Stick to one font style and vary it by using **bold** or underline only for emphasis. Leave lots of white space. Vary text with images (photos or clip art) but stick to one style for consistency. Spot colour used well is just as effective as full-colour, and cheaper.

**10. Date your materials** so staff and clients can determine how current the information is.

## *Contribute*

market information, event listings, publication success news,  
writing-related articles, and/or website recommendations to [LPwordsolutions@hotmail.com](mailto:LPwordsolutions@hotmail.com)  
with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.