
From: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:26 PM
To:
Subject: Weekly Newsletter - July - C



July 22, 2008

Welcome to My World

I refused to get out of bed this morning. I finally rose at 7:40 a.m., which if you know me, is like noon to anyone else. I felt great turmoil. I knew somethin' bad was gonna happen. I didn't know what, but I knew I didn't wanna know. Two things happened.

My daughter Gina was in a car accident this afternoon. She's in the hospital with a broken arm, broken ribs, and possible internal bleeding. This is my eldest, the former homeless meth addict who had her one-year anniversary of being sober on May 31st. Now she'll be on pain meds. She's too far away for me to go to her. Your prayers are appreciated.

AND

We suffered a big loss with the passing of inspirational author Kristy Dykes. I know God's in control, but I wish He'd get rid of some of the dead weight around here, and leave people like Kristy, who was a bright light to anyone who knew her.

A message from her husband, Milton:

"My beloved is healed and is dancing on streets of gold. I will share soon about her glorious transition from my hand into the hands of her Lord and Savior. She is rejoicing with her mother, father, and dear loved ones in heaven. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.&#xu201D;

Milton found a Post-It note in her Bible with a verse written on it: Ps. 94:19

"When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought joy to my soul."

Kristy is making everyone in heaven smile right now.

[To pay your respects go to:] <http://www.christianlovestories.blogspot.com/>

Boo-Yahs!

Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll snagged a nomination for the 2008 Book of the Year Award! She's a finalist in the Debut Author Category for *Bayou Justice*, her first Steeple Hill release.

Market Moves

EDITORS

DongWon Song joined Orbit this week as associate editor. Song previously worked at Sterling Lord Literistic. [PM]

In promotions, **Jonathan Valuckas** has moved over to Scholastic Paperbacks as editorial coordinator and **Greg Rutty** is now to associate editor at Scholastic Press. [PM]

At Atria, **Peter Borland** has been promoted to editorial director. [PM]

John Rudolph has been promoted to executive editor at Putnam Children's, where he has worked since August, 2001. [PM]

Katie Henderson, previously at Bloomsbury, is now an associate editor at Doubleday. [PM]

Ethan Friedman is leaving Collins Business. [PM]

Rosalind Greenberg will be taking over the management of novel acquisition and editorial oversight duties at Tekno Books for the various Five Star lines, effective immediately.

AGENTS

Lisa Grubka has left the William Morris Agency after six years to join Foundry Literary + Media. [PM]

Janet Benrey of Benrey Literary has "hired" her hubby, **Ron Benrey** (author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing Christian Fiction*) to handle contract evaluation and other legal aspects (including movie rights). He'll also represent several clients. Benrey Literary handles most of the genres of Christian fiction and is seeking new clients. Please visit their Web site to learn more: <http://www.benreyliterary.com/>

The Dirt

BLOGGIN'

I have **Tricia Van Dockum**, publicist for Ollie Media on my blog this week. Sign up at: www.perilsofpublishing.com

Got Lists?

As a matter of fact, I do. The only tangible thing of value I received from the publishing house I was supposed to take over. These are direct mail lists valuable to e-pub and self-published authors, or anyone doing their own publicity. All lists are Excel. Here's what I got:

- 585 Libraries List w/Contact Info, Including Budgets (Cost around \$900)
- 202 Romance-Friendly Bookstores
- 100 Library Addresses by State
- 72 Bookstore List of What Promo Items They Want
- 54 Headquarters of Independent Bookstores
- 31 Reader's Groups
- 18 National Book Buyers List (Books a Million, Borders, etc.)
- And a Partridge in a Pear Tree (that'll cost ya extra)

I'll e-mail you all seven lists for a measly \$50.00. What a deal! E-mail me with your request and send a check to:

Kelly Mortimer * 52645 Paui Road * Aguanga, CA 92536

Everyone Loves the Underdog (We're countin' on it...)

Big news next week, but here's a teaser. Underdog will have info about our second release, ***Celtic Sacrifice*** by **Sheryl Brennan**. Stay tuned.

In the meantime...

UNDERDOG PRESS is pre-selling **Robin Miller** w/a **Robin Carroll's** debut single title inspirational romantic suspense release in Trade Paperback, ***Torrents of Destruction***. [Edited by *moi*.]

Raging rapids aren't the only thing causing turbulence in the lives of a river rafting guide and an undercover FBI agent ... catching criminals is as dangerous as the undercurrent of attraction they have for each other.

Torrents is an edgy Inspirational Romantic Suspense with an "E" rating (go to our site for our rating key -- www.underdogpress.com). We have an exciting video trailer (thanks to the efforts of the maaavelous Natalie Eggeman) for ***Torrents*** that takes just over a minute to view (I know y'all have short attention spans). (Go to our site to view the trailer -- www.underdogpress.com)

Here's the bottom line: **UNDERDOG PRESS** needs your support to publish great work that needs a home. Please visit us at www.underdogpress.com and **pre-order *Torrents of Destruction*** in Trade Paperback today ... this minute ... **NOW!** Even if ya don't know how to read (a lame excuse, as you're reading my newsletter).

Special thanks to all those giving me a hand, and a foot, and a...

Gayle Link - Does everything, I'm merely a figurehead

Sherri Andervich - Senior Editor

Laura Drake - Public Relations

Robin Haseltine - Troubleshootin' (no, she doesn't have trouble shootin'-I don't think)

Natalie Ellis - Spectacular Trailer

Dale Ankrum - Designed Robin's bodacious book cover.

You guys ROCK!

David Webb - MIA at B&H

Two weeks ago, I reported that B&H Publishing Group has launched an all-new Web site for its growing line of fiction releases at www.PureEnjoyment.com . The portal features the latest information on current titles plus contests, giveaways, author pages, and an increasingly popular series of book video trailers. [Hey, they stole my idea!]

Now I'm saddened to say a dear man, David Webb, is leaving B&H due to cutbacks. David is a great guy. He's warm, kind, and always treats everyone with great respect [and trust me, I've dealt with a few pompous people in this biz, and David ain't one of them.]. He's a learned man with a gentle spirit. He did a great job at B&H. I could go on listing his attributes, but it'd take all night. Please pray he'll find a great spot at another house soon.

Karen Ball will be the new Executive Editor.

[I asked Karen if she'd be taking David's place at the ACFW conference, and she said she would, so if you had an appointment with him, you now have one with Karen.]

Authors Guild Warns on S&S e-Book Royalty Proposal

by Jim Milliot -- Publishers Weekly

The Authors Guild has sent out an advisory to its members suggesting that they carefully review a letter from Simon & Schuster that looks to add an amendment to their contracts that will set the standard royalty for e-books at 15% of the catalog retail price for e-books. The Authors Guild alert makes three points about the proposal: members should discuss the amendment with their attorney or agent; warns that, depending on a member's particular contract with S&S, the amendment may grant S&S rights that otherwise would be retained by the author; and notes that members should be aware that the amendment may affect their ability to obtain a reversion of rights.

The alert further advises that members should "keep your powder dry," when negotiating e-book royalty rates, suggesting that members try to retain the right to renegotiate e-book royalties. "The Authors Guild expects that the 15% of the retail list price will be the low-water mark for e-book royalties," the Guild speculated. "As the e-book market develops, authors with clout will doubtlessly insist on a more reasonable share of e-book revenues, and the industry will have to adapt."

S&S spokesperson Adam Rothberg said the amendment was sent to a "long list" of authors whose books have not yet been adapted to e-books, with most of the letters going directly to agents. He said the overall goal is to sell more e-books in a rapidly growing market, "and we want to work with our agents and author friends to do that." But that in order to move forward, S&S believes it is important to determine what the royalty rate should be, Rothberg added. Noting that it is still "early days" in the e-book industry, Rothberg said S&S remains willing to talk to authors and agents about any questions they have about the e-book market.

This is the second time the Guild has challenged a proposed change in contract language by S&S. Last year, the organization protested the publisher's plan to alter the conditions for when authors could get back their rights. The two sides eventually worked out a compromise.

Harlequin Launches Enriched Edition eBooks

Harlequin is the first publisher to release entirely enriched eBooks

TORONTO, July 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Harlequin Enterprises Limited (<http://www.eharlequin.com/>), the global leader in series romance and one of the world's leading publishers of women's fiction, announced today the launch of their Enriched Edition eBooks. With this launch, Harlequin becomes the first publisher to offer entire eBooks that are enriched with interactive buttons that hyperlink to Web sites with more information about the content.

The launch title, UNMASKED by Nicola Cornick, a Regency-set historical available from www.eBooks.eHarlequin.com, has been enriched with interactive buttons that hyperlink to Web sites containing photos, historical commentaries, illustrations, sound effects, maps, articles and more, bringing the world of the novel to life without the reader having to leave the computer or the current screen page. The interactive buttons have been designed to be unobtrusive, so if one prefers not to access the bonus material, the reading experience remains uninterrupted.

By exploiting the interactive possibilities inherent with eBooks, Harlequin is recognizing the opportunity for online reading to enhance the reading experience, evolving it above and beyond the replication of print books.

Harlequin will release select Enriched Edition titles from its many series and imprints, but chose to launch with a historical release since the period setting particularly lends itself to the enriched experience. Obscure period details, customs, terms and references become instantly accessible should the reader wish to learn more about the story's context.

Enriched Edition eBooks are available at www.eBooks.eHarlequin.com and are being sold at the same price as regular eBooks.

Baker & Taylor Changes Book Merchandise Buying

Baker & Taylor announced a "paradigm shift to category buying" to serve customers better "and respond to market changes." EVP of merchandising and president, retail markets David Cully says: "The Merchandise Buyer function focuses on leveraging category expertise as a sales advantage in the retail and library markets. Likewise, the Merchandise Planner function focuses on data mining and statistical modeling to improve forecasting and reduce friction in the supply chain."

SVP merchandising Jean Srnecz will supervise both the divisional merchandising directors [Allen Johnson: basics (nonfiction), Sally Neher: fashion (key new releases and Speedstock), Rick Shalayda: children's and small press, Barbara Witt: Academic/STM]] and the directors of merchandise planning and allocation [Greg Kroeger, Thomas Manning, Eric McGarvey, Allen Johnson, who has a dual role.] [PM]

More Free: Pinter, Friedman, and Tor

Through August 5, author Jason Pinter is offering visitors to his web site free online access to the first book in his Henry Parker series, THE MARK. (The third in the series publishes at the end of July.) In an additional twist, Pinter offers to thank in the acknowledgments of next year's book any fan who links to the free offer, posts the widget or e-mails five friends and notifies Pinter. I guess we just qualified. [Pinter blog](#)

Separately, starting a few days ago, Thomas Friedman has been offering a free audiobook giveaway of THE WORLD IS FLAT from his web site, provided in installments. The program includes a preview audio excerpt of his forthcoming Hot, Flat, and Crowded. [Friedman offer](#)

And for the mother-lode of free, Tor--which had been giving away free, unprotected electronic book files every week to those who registered at their home page while it was being redesigned/relaunched--is ending that program. "This has had some odd side-effects, such as convincing some people that the name of the site you are now looking at will be 'Watch the Skies,' or that its main purpose will be to give away free e-books, perhaps along with free cars, savings bonds, real estate, a pony, etc." The site has now turned into a sci-fi community vertical, with regular news and blog posts and an extensive message board.

But they are going out in a blaze of free-dom: through Sunday, site visitors can still download any or all of the 24 books (plus a batch of free wallpapers) in formats that include HTML, PDF and Mobi.

In the comments field, a number of people express appreciation for the program along with disappointment that, while happy to give away electronic files, Tor hasn't made most of them available for sale as ebooks yet. One poster notes, "There is a market for ebooks, and a fair number of people who would like to buy them from you. The fact that you issued titles as ebooks in the first place shows you have the capability of making them. Now all you need to do is sell them. Who do we lobby to make this happen?" In particular, fans request that the publisher convert entire series all at once, and not leave them hanging with just the first title.

Tor's Patrick Nielsen Hayden notes: "Tor parent company Macmillan is actively converting all titles to which we have digital rights. It really is just a matter of time before the majority of our library is available in e-book form.... There are issues of workflow and rights, just as there are everywhere else. I think you'll see lots more e-books in lots more formats in the next few months." [Tor offer](#)

Book Sales Fell in May

According to the Association of American Publishers (AAP), net book sales fell 1.8 percent to \$670 million in May. Strong categories include: e-books, adult hardcovers, and children's/YA paperbacks. Year to date, net sales of books are down .7 percent from the same period last year.

LA Times to Fold Standalone Book Review

By Rachel Deahl -- Publishers Weekly

According to a former staffer, the *Los Angeles Times* is folding its standalone Sunday book review section, laying off two dedicated book editors. The last standalone section will be the July 27 one. Steve Wasserman, a former editor of the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, sent out an e-mail Monday morning, protesting the changes at the embattled Tribune-owned daily.

Nancy Sullivan, executive director of corporate communications at the paper, confirmed that the book review staff has been cut from five to three and that, moving forward, book review coverage will be placed in the Calendar section of the paper where it will share space with features. She would not comment further on any staff cuts or the future of the book review, saying that more definitive news would be issued next week. She added that the paper "remains committed to book review coverage. What form that takes is what's under evaluation."

In his e-mail, co-signed by three other former *Review* editors, Wasserman said the elimination of the book review section will have an adverse effect on the paper, calling it a "philistine blunder that...will further wound the long-term fiscal health of the newspaper."

Despite the folding of the section, the longrunning Los Angeles Times Festival of Books is expected to continue, but Wasserman observed that without the *Book Review* itself, "the book festival will be a hollow joke." He urged readers and writers "to join with us as we protest this sad and backward step."

New SFWA Grand Master

Harry Harrison, creator of *The Stainless Steel Rat* and author of the novel that inspired the movie *Soylent Green*, will be honored as the next (and twenty-sixth) Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America during their 2009 Nebula Award ceremony.

Harrison published his first science fiction story, 'Rock Diver,' in the August 1951 issue of *Worlds Beyond*, and went on to produce more than 62 novels, eight short fiction collections, six non-fiction books and numerous short stories. His more recent works include best-selling alternate world trilogies *West of Eden* and *Stars and Stripes Forever!*

Low Numbers at Christian Retail Show

By Jana Riess -- Publishers Weekly

After a lackluster International Christian Retail Show one year ago in Atlanta, the CBA was clearly hoping that a return to family-friendly Orlando in 2008 would mean a jump in flagging show attendance. The organizers had good reason for optimism: when the meeting was held in Orlando back in 1999, a record-breaking 14,694 people came. However, the Disney magic did not materialize at last week's trade show which ended July 17, with total attendance of 7,448—the lowest numbers since the 1980s, and well off last year's already limp showing of 9,266. Professional attendance (which is mostly retailers, plus some industry professionals) was down to 2,386, a 17% drop from last year and about half as much as in New Orleans eight years ago.

"When shows die, they die quickly," said one insider, voicing the concerns of many publishers who said that the show must radically reinvent itself or it will disappear. Even on the first day—traditionally a bustling time with booth signings, giveaways, and floor events—traffic was light and the lines for many bestselling authors were only about 25 people deep.

"Frankly, the traffic is extremely low," said Michael Thomson, sales director at Eerdmans. "We have done some good orders, but they're mostly orders we would have done anyhow."

Order-writing was rare, as has increasingly been the case at ICRS. As Kim Shiner, marketing director for Judson, said, "we've grown to realize this show isn't about selling anymore. We've had to mentally prepare not to make a profit. For the visibility and networking, it's just something we've got to do." Still, Judson is considering a cutback from two booth spaces to one next year.

A number of publishers have already scaled back their booths, but the elephant in the room was the several publishers who decided not to come at all this year. Exhibitor numbers declined to 353 (including music and gifts), down from 410 two years ago. Thomas Nelson, the largest Christian publishing house, was conspicuously absent, but some other houses also decided to give the show a skip. "Steeple Hill and Harlequin have always been committed to engaging readers, authors and agents, and our booths at ICRS over the years reflected that," said Joan Marlow Golan, executive editor for Harlequin's Steeple Hill imprint said that while the company has supported ICRS in the past, "recent low attendance at the event has made it difficult for us to justify the resources it takes to host a booth there." Instead, Harlequin spotlighted its Steeple Hill and Love Inspired lines at its BEA booth in June and sent only editors to ICRS.

Several other publishers told *PW* that they are thinking seriously about following suit. One complained, "You could bowl in these aisles. We're putting on the show for each other instead of for our customers." Although she noted that a shortened show might get her colleagues to change their minds, "we don't think we'll be back next year."

The one bright spot was the brisk business being conducted in the international rights area, where 739 attendees from 63 countries engaged in buying and selling. "For everyone else, this trade show is redundant. For international customers, it's essential," said Dwight Baker, president of Baker Publishing Group.

Still, it is anyone's guess whether that international business will continue or be superseded by the Christian Book Expo, a unique direct-to-consumer Christian show planned for Dallas in March 2009. "We're actively working on an international rights area as a component of the show," said Mark Kuyper, president of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, which is planning the event. Kuyper expects at least 10,000 total attendees, and more likely between 15,000 and 20,000. It remains to be seen whether international customers will want to make the long trip to the U.S. twice in the space of four months to attend both CBE and ICRS, which is planned for Denver in July.

What's especially interesting about the precipitous decline at ICRS is that it comes at a time when Christian publishing continues to be strong and some houses, like Baker, have enjoyed record-breaking years. But even as Christian publishing grows and diversifies, Christian retail stores continue to bleed: CBA membership has now fallen to 1,731 retail stores. CBA President Bill Anderson was characteristically upbeat despite the abysmal turnout at ICRS, pointing to the bleak economy, budget-busting gas prices and sky-high airfares as reasons for the dip. He also noted that "quite frankly, some publishers need to reassess" their goals for the show, which are primarily "exposure and networking. This show is not just transactional. It's transformational."

At CBA Show, Zondervan Introduces Download-by-Card

The Tampa Bay newspaper covers the CBA's International Christian Retail Show in Orlando, with approximately 7,000 attendees (and no exhibit from Thomas Nelson). Non-

book merchandise captures the paper's attention more than books, including everything from "a Christian version of the wildly popular Guitar Hero video game to 'witness wear' clothing and skateboard art that proclaim faith in bold cultural statements." With Nelson's absence, the show appears to be in serious decline, with numbers well below the approximately 9,250 attendees recorded the two previous years. (Even that number is far below the show's high-water-mark of almost 15,000 attendees from 1999.)

Publisher Zondervan introduced a new merchandising program called Symtio, through which they will sell cards that are redeemed at home for digital downloads of books in a variety of formats. (The You Tube [promo video](#) shows only audio downloads, but the two articles we found implied that the cards are good for text-based downloads as well.) This report says that "about 300 titles should be available by fall" for the launch of the program. Tamba Bay [Online](#) [PM]

What Does It Mean When Authors Write to Dear Abby?

[Gotta love it!]

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Scott," and I are writers, although we both have day jobs. During the two years we've been together, we have always supported each other's writing careers.

Things changed after my first novel was published. While initially congratulatory, Scott's behavior was different as the publication date neared. He declined to help my friend throw me a party. When I spotted my book on the shelf of a bookstore for the first time, he chided me to keep my voice down. My novel has now been out for months, but he still hasn't read it. (I gave him one of my free copies.)

When I told Scott how much this hurt me, he agreed to read it and said he was proud of me. But after reading only one chapter, the book was left on the nightstand and he hasn't touched it since.

Scott is a talented writer. He has been published in literary magazines, but hasn't yet published a book. I sympathize with his jealousy and have tried to keep talk of my novel to a minimum. But I'm troubled by Scott's refusal to participate in this exciting period of my life. If he had written a 600-page tome on the digestive habits of the three-toed sloth, and I had to drink a pot of coffee to stay awake through the first chapter, I would still be first in line to buy it. Abby, what gives? -- FRUSTRATED NOVELIST

DEAR FRUSTRATED: I think you have pegged "what gives" accurately. Your boyfriend is suffering the effects of having been bitten by the green-eyed monster. Every reminder of your success gives him a pang because he wasn't published first -- and he may be punishing you for your success by leaving the book unread by the bed. (Anything else going on there?)

I'm sad to say that not every man is man enough to appreciate his woman's success. Some are emasculated by it. And frankly, it will be interesting to see if your relationship survives this. [Tribune](#) [This guy reminds me of one of my prior husbands. The second one, I think.]

LASSIE Heir Recovers Rights from Classic Media

The daughter of *Lassie Come Home* author Eric Knight prevailed over Classic Media in a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling handed down on Friday that reversed a 2006 District Court decision and affirms Winifred Knight Mewborn's 1996 letter terminating Classic Media's rights. Variety says "the court's opinion addressed a complicated issue of copyright

law involving whether the law's termination of transfer right is eradicated by a post-1978 assignment of the rights. In a victory for authors and their heirs, the court held that their rights are not terminated." [PM]

The Reviewers Come In From the Cold

At Publishers' Weekly, A Tradition of Anonymity is Abandoned; Herewith, Our Brief Review of the Reviewers: by [Leon Neyfakh](#)

A review in *Publisher's Weekly* tends to be a book's first-some of the titles in last week's issue won't be on sale until the end of September-and for this reason, the dozens of reviews printed there each week, at about 200 words, are regarded as influential.

A "starred review" is a prize-a guarantee, almost, that booksellers, librarians, and book editors across the country will all take a look at a title when they get the galley in the mail. No guarantee that they'll go for it-not even editor-in-chief Sara Nelson would ever argue that *PW* unilaterally sets the tone for a book's reception-but in a field as crowded as this one, a mere look is a valuable thing.

Thus the reviewers of *PW*, who do not get bylines, have spoken as one as if from behind a drape for the past 136 years, their authority drawn from the classic (if not a bit fossilized!) *PW* brand and reinforced by the anonymity they are afforded by the magazine's no-bylines policy.

All that changed when *PW* announced to contributors this spring that the freelance rate was being cut by 50 percent, and that henceforth they would be paid only \$25 per review. To make up for the cut, reviewers were told they would be "be credited as a contributor" in issues where their reviews ran.

And so an unfamiliar box appeared in the magazine. With this box, a little bit of *PW* tradition went to its grave, and the mystique of that booming *PW* voice, once so objective and authoritative, fractured and finally shattered by the 80-something names printed there in red ink, each referring to an individual, a person somewhere who read a book and wrote a review of it.

Who are these individuals? Enthusiasts, mainly. Schoolteachers, professors, stay-at-home moms, authors. It takes all kinds. We looked a handful of them up on Google, corresponded with a couple, and came up with some crude bios. Here's an assortment.

Anna Dembska-Composer. Has worked as a soprano and an improviser. From the official bio: "She has produced and performed her original theater works, operas, and music since 1976-from *Enough is Enough*, a puppet opera, at the Bread and Puppet Circus, to *Coyote* at The Bang-on-a-Can Festival at Lincoln Center." Also: Ms. Dembska sings in a Maine-based quartet called "Singin' Local."

Pete Croatto-[Movie critic](#). Loves *Hoosiers* and *Planes Trains and Automobiles*. Hated *Date Movie* and *Baby Geniuses 2*.

Bob Stewart-Publisher of 1953's *EC Fan Bulletin*, the original *EC* fanzine. Editor of *The MAD Style Guide*, author of Wallace Wood biography *Against the Grain*, and a writer for 80's animated series *Kissyfur*. Acting credits include the legendary *Venus in Furs* and Warhol's *Naomi's Birthday Party*.

Kate Axelrod-Graduated from Oberlin last summer, then completed the six-week Columbia

Publishing Course.

Naomi Woronov-Author of *Modern American English: Living and Learning in the West*, published in 1983 by the Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press. This book sold nearly two million copies in China. The University of Chicago Magazine [declares](#): "A whole generation of Chinese learned to speak and understand English from this text."

Charlene Brusso-According to Ms. Brusso's bio, she has "worked as an archaeologist, an astronomer, a baker, an editor, a museum curator's assistant, a janitor, a tutor, a physicist, and a scientific programmer." [Sheesh! She'd had more jobs than I've had husbands!] Her focus is in science. She "[specializes] in physics, astronomy, planetary science and geology, and history of science." She is also a science fiction/fantasy author.

Libby Morse-University of Chicago graduate, now a senior advertising and marketing exec at Lipman Hearne. Reviews children's books.

Will Boisvert-Spent a few years reviewing books for Entertainment Weekly. At one point was a contributing editor at the magazine *In These Times*, where he filed excellent pieces about the 2004 Republican National Convention, the culture of "insiderism," and Francis Fukayama and biotechnology.

Nathalie op de Beeck-Assistant professor in the English department at Illinois State University, where she specializes in children's literature and childhood studies, visual studies, and critical theory.

Liam Brennen-This one directly from the man himself, via email: "Well, I'm a 24 year old writer from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, having graduated just over a year ago with an English degree from the University of Manitoba. I started out writing for my student paper, covering Arts news and reviews and then managed to get a freelance job with the Winnipeg Free Press writing book reviews. In truth, I hadn't actually heard of PW until I started reviewing really, and one day I noticed the review quote on the back cover of an old Stephen King book I was reading and thought that somehow I might be able to be the one who writes those! So I looked them up and within a couple of days, I was reviewing for the fiction department. Shortly after that I got a job reviewing audiobooks (which is where I spend most of my time now) with PW and have since become a top reviewer in that section. And I suppose that's about it."

Sue Corbett-Grew up in New York. Parents Irish immigrants. Started her career as a reporter, eventually settling on a job at *The Miami Herald*. She started reviewing children's books there in 1996. A regular contributor to *People*, and a young-adult novelist as well.

Lance Eaton-Has an ambiguous Web site which he has been maintaining since 1999. Believes that "despite how much we tell ourselves that we are independent and free-thinking people, we rarely can escape the paradigm of the world around us." In the throes of a research project about consumerism, consumption, and media. "I want to record and account for all the things I buy, consume, eat, and waste throughout the year to get a sense of what kind of spoke I am in the wheel of life." The Way-Back Machine tells us that he may have [pioneered Twitter](#), as well as [blogging](#).

Dick Adler-70 or 71 years old. Reviews mysteries-the American Crime Writers League gave him a prize recognizing his excellence in mystery-fiction reviewing. Began his career in 1956 at a men's magazine called *Argosy*. During the seventies, wrote for *TV Guide*. Member of the National Book Critics Circle.

Rachel Bravvman-Has written book reviews for *Seattle Magazine* and *Bust*. Also for a magazine geared towards people who have bipolar disorder and their friends and family. She is a consultant/grant writer, also. She writes in an e-mail: "My love of the written word is as deep as my respect for it. I'm impassioned by the way writing can transform the world around us- how language is able to shape thoughts, moods and actions. How in a split second, a string of syllables can instigate change. I bring a reverence and facility for words to every project I undertake assuring that each communique is an innovation."

Kate Pavao-Graduated from The University of California at Santa Cruz with a degree in women's studies, then went to journalism school at Columbia. Was once an assistant editor at *Teen People*. Also editorial director of chicclick.com.

Ron Hogan-The editor of Galleycat, a Mediabistro blog about the publishing industry.

Sheri Melnick-Based in Enola, Penn. According to her Web site, a non-practicing lawyer and "stay-at-home mom of four children." Two of these four are twins. Ms. Melnick also writes reviews books for *Romantic Times*, which is narrowly dedicated to romance, mystery, and women's fiction.

Saul Austerlitz-A 29-year-old from Brooklyn, author of *Money for Nothing: A History of the Music Video from the Beatles to the White Stripes*.

Ellen Wernecke-A recent graduate of Brown University, where she wrote for the *Brown Daily Herald*. Has also contributed to *The Onion's* AV Club section. Didn't get along with her freshman year roommate, according to a [testimonial posted on a peer-review Web site](#). UPDATE: Initially we thought Ms. Wernecke was editor-in-chief of the BDH--what other conclusion to draw from [this!](#)--but people who went to school there tell us it's not so, "although she would have been good at it."

Adam Boretz-Second year M.F.A. at Columbia specializing in fiction as of spring 2007. Occupation on flickr listed as "Procrastinator." Favorite books and authors: George Saunders, Denis Johnson, John Irving, David Foster Wallace. Favorite movies: Zombie Movies, Fight Club, Fear and Loathing, Hedwig, Spinal Tap.

Roger Gathman-Lives in Austin, Tex. Edits (edited, by the looks of it) a Webzine called [Calumny and Art](#). Studied philosophy in graduate school. Had a column in *The Austin American-Statesman*: "The Academic Presses," which was praised by Scott McLemee for carrying the torch of the dearly missed review of academic life *Lingua Franca*.

William D. Bushnell-Lives in Maine. According to the Maine Humanities Council, Mr. Bushnell has published more than 1,350 pieces in "thirty magazines and newspapers including *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Civil War Times*, *Military Officer Magazine* and many others." National Book Critics' Circle member; teaches or taught a class on book reviewing at the University of Southern Maine.

Sherwood Smith-Specialty is sci-fi and fantasy that borders on young-adult. Ms. Smith has written dozens of books in this genre. Has an official Web site featuring an FAQ section where the first "Q" is "Are there any more stories about Mel and Vidanric?" [NY Observer]

New Address for Romance Writers of America

The Romance Writers of America office is moving to their new building on August 14. The new address is: 14615 Benfer Rd, Houston, TX 77069; the phone and fax numbers will not change.

New Imprints

[From Brandilyn Collins' Blog via Pam Hillman]

New Fiction Line

Barbara Scott has been hired as Senior Acquisitions Editor for fiction. Barbara has been in publishing and writing for many years herself. She started out as a newspaper reporter and magazine writer. Later she served as acquisitions editor for Honor Books. In the mid 90s she co-wrote with Carrie Younce two Peretti-type thrillers published by Thomas Nelson-- *Sedona Storm* and *Secrets of the Gathering Darkness*. She later moved to Zondervan to serve as acquisitions editor for Zonderkidz and the new young adult line.

Barbara says Abingdon has a "solid, realistic five-year plan "for developing their fiction line. They want to publish 18-20 fiction titles a year by the end of five years. Their first year, which launches with the first release in the fall of 2009, will see 4-5 titles published. Right now Barbara is looking for:

1. Contemporary women's fiction
2. Romance
3. Chick Lit
4. Suspense
5. Historical

For the first year launch she is not looking for adventure, sci-fi, fantasy or apocalyptic. This is a realistic plan to start a new line with the basic genres. "Depending on how things go," she says, they may publish the other genres in the future.

Barbara is an eclectic reader. She wants "to publish books I'd like to read and work with authors I enjoy." She's not interested in running after someone just because he/she is a "big name" in the industry. She is "excited about building new authors who have worked and worked on their craft but haven't yet been able to break in." She is looking for "honesty and authentic emotion" in her books. She doesn't want contemporary fiction that's "mostly depressing." She wants hope in the end. As to the spiritual thread, it needs to be "organic" to the story. It doesn't need to be overly strong. "Nobody has to get saved in the book."

Authors interested in submitting to Abingdon must have a finished manuscript to present if asked for it. Barbara will be going through the normal channels for submission--either meeting her at a writers conference or submitting through an agent.

Word count: Approximately 80-100 thousand words

Contests

Please e-mail your contest info, in a format I can cut and paste, to: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com . Type: "Contest" in the subject line. Thanks!

Carla Neggers Live Your Adventure Contest
eHarlequin.com requirements to enter:

- 50 words or less
- Relate an adventure you'd like to experience
- Free to entrants
- First Prize: \$1,000
- Deadline to enter: July 31, 2008
- For more info go to: <http://www.eharlequin.com/>

Feature

Robin Miller Still Needs Our Help!

Please distribute this info to every loop/group you're on/in. Thanks.

My client, Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll needs our help. Her husband is unable to work, and they have three children. I'm trying to raise \$2,000 a month for the rest of the year to pay her mortgage. I'm taking monthly pledges of \$10.00 or more (now five more payments), and one-time gifts. Or, bid on an auction.

Not ready to submit your work to an agent or editor? This week's auction is a great opportunity for you! **Pollyanna Williamson** will edit your work. She'll get it in spiffy order for your next submission.

Ms. Williamson teaches online creative writing classes for Earthly Charms and various RWA chapters. She is a CTM, a competent Toastmaster, and speaks to local writing organizations on the craft of writing. In the past, she has taught creative writing classes at San Jacinto College-Central campus and edits for Red Rose Publishing.

She is published by small press and e-publishing under the pen names, Keelia Greer and Tandra Kendall.

Ms. Williamson will edit a chapter of: Category, romantic suspense, erotic romance, paranormal romance, historical [Please, no inspirational or mainstream] Go to <http://www.ebay.com/> (after you finish reading this incredible newsletter I worked my tail off to put together...). To bid, type: **'Pollyanna Williamson 1st Chapter Edit'** in the search box. All proceeds (minus fees) go the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund.

Yada Yada

WISE WORDS by the *SASSY SAGE*...

"Always ask a busy person when you need something done. There's a reason those who aren't busy, aren't busy. Usually, I can sum it up with a four-letter word: L-A-Z-Y."

This issue in memory of...

Kristy Dykes

August 2, 1951 ~ July 21, 2008

Until next week, try to survive without me. I know, but try._{.rt}

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