

### *Welcome to the conversation*

Every individual has a story to tell and WriteAwayHEB, along with the team at DreamWriter Press, are committed to encouraging the telling of these wonderful stories.

Novice or published author, true life or wonderful fantasy, we commit to be the place to find the help and support you need to become. Join us for our Meetups and get involved. Find out for yourself what joy can be had bringing your literary dreams to life.

Each month we will bring you articles of interest and introduce some of the wonderful authors that are part of our world of encouragement.

We will also reach out to local and national experts to get their insight and wisdom on the journey that is authorship.

	<p><i>Don't miss an issue!</i></p>
<p>Make sure you get every issue of <i>Monthly Conversation.</i></p>	
<p>Send us an email to <a href="#">Newsletter Editor</a> and we will be happy to include you on our mailing list!</p>	
<p><i>Have an idea or article for the newsletter...</i></p>	
<p>Be sure to email the <a href="#">editor</a> and we will do our best to get you published... It is all about sharing the word...</p>	

### *Author's Spotlight*

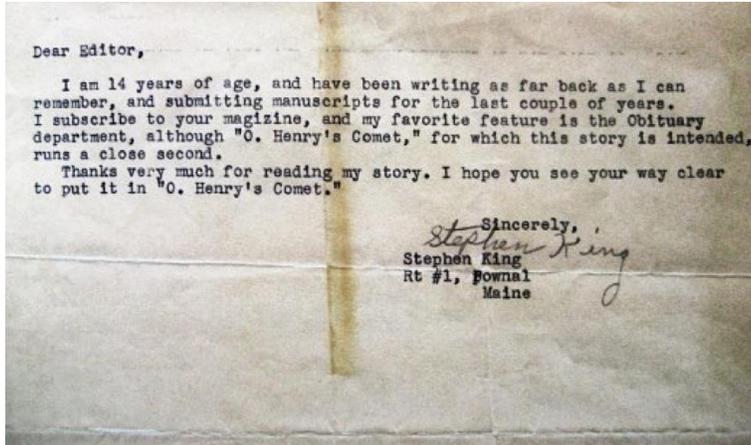
#### *Meet Barbara Horton*

During my professional career as a writer, I have published fiction and nonfiction. My stories and articles have appeared in Dark Regions; Parents Magazine; Wonder Time Children's Magazine; Hydro Review; Kansas City Star Newspaper; Olathe Daily News; Independence Missouri Examiner; The National Library of Poetry; Fate Magazine and several national trade magazines. I have written the words and music to published songs. I have written and directed plays for several theatrical groups and sold scripts. Created and wrote departmental newsletters for the Federal Aviation Agency; The Federation of State Medical Boards; Care Free Homes; American Detector Sales. Created and wrote a humor column for a local newspaper in Kansas.



#### *Awards and Recognitions*

- International Society of Poets for Society's Principals of Accomplishments
- Top 100 Writer's Market Scriptwriting Competition
- Awarded the Golden Pencil for Excellence in Editing from National Newspaper Association
- Editor's Choice Award for Achievement in Poetry from National Library of Poetry
- Letter of Appreciation from President Jimmy Carter
- Certificate of Participation In Nashville Music Festival
- Certificate of Appreciation Fort Worth Songwriters Association



*Writing is about the journey  
you choose...*

*Encouragement for writers from around  
the world*

### *Encouraging Aspiring Writers*

As a freelance writer and writing instructor, I'm often asked to edit the work of my peers and of aspiring writers. And I love to encourage others to [tell the stories that matter most](#).

**Grammar cops.** I also appreciate the editing skills of my writing peers, as they wield their red pens and hack on my "shoddy" first drafts. But at times, I observe grammar cops attack insecure, fragile writers, who approach them for encouragement as they tiptoe into the waters of writing for publication.

Now, I've been known to whip out my red pen from time to time, when someone asks me to do that kind of editing. But I try to use a little discernment and discretion when a novice writer approaches me with their work.



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### *Today's Encouragement*

**Don't compare yourself to the best of the best.** Strive to write as well as they do, if you like, but don't hold your work up to theirs. The comparison does little more than frustrate writers. Yes, you might get fired up to work on your skills when you compare, but you're not writing their books or meeting their standards or following their paths.

You've got your own stories with their own strengths to work on. Admire other writers, read them and learn from them. But don't try to be them.



[May 25th, 2014 by Fiction Editor Beth Hill](#)

### *Encouraging (Continued)*

**Aspiring writers.** Sensitive, aspiring writers need our empathy, since they trust us with some of their most intimate tales. These newer writers pour out their hearts and souls into their first pieces; we need to handle them with care.

I've seen writers spanning from late teens to senior citizens. And I've noticed many of them choose topics dealing with difficult life struggles—the death of loved ones, flashbacks of war experiences, or simply leaving home and beginning their own journey as adults. I'm able to empathize with their pain, confusion, doubts, and fears. I recognize their need to tell their stories, trying to make sense out of the rumblings of their minds and troubled hearts.

**Levels of edit.** I believe it's vital to discern the needs of a writer, not always assuming they need a grammar cop to attack their work with a red pen. My unsolicited grammar cop comments tend to cause more harm than good. I find it helpful to ask writers to clarify their needs and their expectations of me as an editor. What level of editing do they want?

I also think it's important to examine one aspect of editing at a time, since I don't do well at multi-tasking. And although many professional editors may have different terms to describe their levels of editing, [my editing checklist for my own work includes three—the panoramic, macroscopic, and microscopic viewpoints](#). But sometimes, I consider one more level editing, especially with writers who need encouragement—like students, wannabe writers, or hobby writers (i.e. not professional writers).

**Peer responses.** Some professional writers may not even consider the peer response a valid level of editing, but it can serve as an important phase of the writing process. For instance, this approach might be helpful for some critique groups.

In the classroom, I required my students to participate in peer groups where they would listen and respond to each other's work. I preferred small groups, where students seemed to be a little less intimidated. I wanted to encourage their writing, not scare them off.

I provided every student several copies of a peer response form. Then, as each writer read their essay out loud, their peers would listen, read along, and record their responses. After each reading, the group would discuss the responses.

One of my favorite writing professors, [Dr. Sally Crisp](#), encouraged me as she taught aspiring writing teachers the value of emphasizing meaning.

I believe that we write to communicate and connect with others, often others we don't know and may never know. In responding to writers, I like to let them know how their message got through to me. In other words, whether I 'got it' or I didn't. I teach the same principle when I teach collaboration. The right kind of collaboration can be an excellent means of fostering in writers a keen sense of audience.

[Dr. Crisp](#) also composed a list of peer response questions and comments that you might find helpful, too.

#### **Peer Responses**

1. How has the writer introduced the essay?
2. What is the main theme of the essay?
3. Is there any information that you are wondering about? What might be added to develop the main point more fully?
4. How did the author conclude the essay?
5. What part of the essay do you find the most effective? Why?
6. Suggest two or three things that would make the paper even better.

#### *About Karen Jordan*



Karen Jordan encourages others to tell the stories that matter most as an author, speaker, writing instructor, and blogger at [karenjordan.net](#). A native Texan, Karen now resides in Arkansas with her husband Dan, near their two children and seven grandchildren. [www.karenjordan.net](#) copyright notice: © 2014, Karen Jordan. All rights reserved. Originally published at [www.wordserverwatercooler.com](#)

***Meetings for Write Away and other important engagements***

Meeting with Link	Key Topic	Date & Time
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	<a href="#">Sun Oct 12, 3:00 PM</a>
<p><i>The Mountain Creek Writer's Conference</i> is slated for November 1st. And like I mentioned before it is free (and we know free is always good) For more information you can email: Mary (Liz) Lounsbury <a href="mailto:Mary.Lounsbury@TCCD.EDU">Mary.Lounsbury@TCCD.EDU</a></p>		
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	<p>Special Speaker Meeting! - Join us in welcoming <i>Paulette Wagner</i> <b>Putting S.P.R.I.N.G in Their Steps Puts a Spring in Yours</b> Paulette Wagner, AKA, The Morale Fairy, Dynamic Speaker on Ethics, Morale and Networking <a href="http://www.themoralefairy.com">www.themoralefairy.com</a> <span style="float: right;"><a href="#">Sun Nov 9, 3:00 PM</a></span></p>	
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	<a href="#">Sun Dec 14, 3:00 PM</a>
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	<a href="#">Sun Jan 11, 2015, 3:00 PM</a>
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	<a href="#">Sun Feb 8, 2015, 3:00 PM</a>

Have a meeting you want to advertise that will help our members and advance their writing dreams please contact our [Newsletter Editor](#) and we will review and post as appropriate. Remember this

*Monthly Conversation* belongs to you.

**Pilcrow & Dagger**

Tidings, Tidbits & Tomfoolery For Writers

*In January 2015 we will publish our premier issue of the Pilcrow & Dagger journal. We are inviting writers nationally to submit a short story, poem or essay to be published in the journal. The submission guidelines and themes are available on our website:*

<http://www.pilcrowdagger.com/submissions/>

We hope you have an opportunity to visit our site and hope your *WriteAwayHEB* members will consider submitting!

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