

Writer's Block...



Don't miss an issue!

Make sure you get every issue of *Monthly Conversation*. Send us an email to [Newsletter Editor](#) and we will be happy to include you on our mailing list!

Have an idea or article for the newsletter...

Be sure to email the [editor](#) and we will do our best to get you published... It is all about sharing the word...

As an author, would you like to put your name up in lights!

What a great place to start! Send us your article, poem or short story so that we can put you up in our Monthly Conversation.



[*Past Monthly Conversation
Newsletters
can be found here*](#)



I'm trying to cure my writers block,
I really need to pull up my socks!
Get into the mode of writing again,
I feel I'm going to go insane!

NO ideas inside my head,
It must be fried, or is it dead??
Please someone give me some advice,
because this really isn't nice!

A Poet I am MEANT to be!
But it's plain for all to see...
I really can't put two words together!
I've got myself in such a tether!

Grrrr! I think I'll make some Coffee,
or some apples covered in toffee.
For soon it will be Halloween,
and little faces will be all gleam.

Now I'm rambling! I'll get off this page.
I think it's definitely reached that stage,
where old age is setting in....
Hey! Don't you be looking so grim.

I can see you sneering over there,
as you're sitting in your chair.
Just comment my poem and I'll be done
as I only wrote this one for fun!

[*by Dreamofolwin*](#)

** Dunno what I have penned here,
I just followed my muse that I'd lost! HaHa*

Do You know someone who would be interested in reading our little newsletter?

Please have them simply send us an email so they can get every issue of *Monthly Conversation*. Send us an email to [Newsletter Editor](#) and we will be happy to include you on our mailing list!

So You Think a Lot about Writers Block

If in the very moment of your monumental torment, your proverbial brain pen goes dry and the words clog up in your arm unable to reach your fingertips and flow out upon the page, you have two options.

- 1 - You can cry out to the gods cursing the malady that has so inflicted you, or*
- 2 - You can gently let the unfinished thought have the time it needs to gestate and thank all that is in you for your multidimensional capabilities.*

In other words - don't fret the small stuff, enjoy the moment and know that it will come when it is ready.

If you receive nothing from this article than the next statement, please take it to heart:

Our journey as authors is to bring heart, mind and soul together for moments of clarity others can experience. No blockage can stand in the way of a mission so profound and so empowering.

There are block@s and then there are block@s...

I have found broken synapses in my cranium that cause the most frustrating stoppages as my wonderful imagination pours freely from my mind. I will be pouring out an adventurous scene onto the paper and a word or phrase eludes my conscious thought. I found that a discipline was needed to be put in place for these occasions.

If I stop to search out the verb, adjective or noun I am looking for, the balance of the scene can actually be lost. So instead, I place a fill-in indicator "_____" and move forward. So far I have never had a "_____" remain past the first edit and the reduction in the tension of having to be perfect the first time no longer haunts my dreams.

Continued on Page 4

r.e.joyce is a dusty old gentleman with a west Texas drawl who can be found prospecting for good yarns and talking to his mule, Gertrude.



Today's Encouragement

[Keep calm and write on.](#)

The scariest moment is always just before you start. After that, things can only get better.

- Stephen King

[On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft](#)



Marketing Your Books

Best Time to Send an Email Broadcast

I get this question a ton. It seems it comes in various formats, but all boils down to what is the best time to send an email broadcast?

An email broadcast can be a sales pitch or regular newsletter or anything you are sending out to your list.

There are several studies out there, and the actual best answer is to figure it per email address you are sending it to...because it is different for each person on your list. But that is very expensive and difficult to pull off for a lot of software companies that provide email marketing services.

So the next best thing to do is to use a service that takes sort of an average of the best time to send the email broadcast and use it.

For example, MailChimp (I swear I am not affiliated with them, I just write about them a ton because they are a great service!) lets you send at the most optimal time for your list once you choose the day.

If your particular brand of email marketing service doesn't permit sending your broadcasts out by analyzing the best time for your list, then I suggest a little split testing. Send each newsletter at various times and see what the results are and go with that, remember to retest periodically.

And finally, if you are looking at this and thinking "pfsssssh I am not gonna do all this work to improve my open rate," I totally get it! Then your best bet is to land in the inboxes first thing in the morning, first thing after lunch or even post-dinner time in the evening.

If you have questions, send them to me or post them on the FB page.
Happy Emailing!

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Our mailing address is:
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Audrey Christie McLaughlin is Founder and CEO of Intuitive Marketing Genius. She is a wife, mom, entrepreneur, fan of football, good food, chai latte, yoga and general positivity. But what she really loves is helping small businesses grow their local community with social media.

So You Think... Continued

Like every great adventure, we will find the tools and tricks to make the daily part of our mission work smoothly. Never allow anyone to infect your thinking with the prospect that there are some uncontrollable forces ready to stop you from reaching your goal. They just do not exist. You have the power and the ability, once you allow all of you to participate in the process.

Blocked - Heck No! Just waiting for the moment of triumph!



“Discipline allows magic. To be a writer is to be the very best of assassins. You do not sit down and write every day to force the Muse to show up. You get into the habit of writing every day so that when she shows up, you have the maximum chance of catching her, bashing her on the head, and squeezing every last drop out of that bitch.” — [Lili St. Crow](#)



“Who is more to be pitied, a writer bound and gagged by policemen or one living in perfect freedom who has nothing more to say?” [Kurt Vonnegut](#)

Problem or Process

It is a reality. The pen stops and you feel a confusion building up, trying to become a monumental rush of fear. Allowed to grow, it can instill doubts and cause you to run away from your project fearing failure.

It is always funny how many have made blockage such a dilemma when it is just a natural part of the process of creativity. The mind and the heart bound by the soul, orchestrate the creation of something wonderful. Our part in the process is to allow all the time they need to finish the symphony.

When it is done and the edits have added and subtracted the wayward pen marks, you will hold the mystery of your precious talent. The blockage, *term used by industry - not me*, will have been rectified and sometimes you will even know why your heart or soul or brain asked for a moment to find the right word.



“Biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite: “Fool!” said my muse to me, “look in thy heart, and write.” — [Philip Sidney, Astrophel and Stella](#)



“I don't believe in writer's block. If I can't write, I go out and live. Then, if I'm a writer, I'll find something to write.” — [Peter Arpesella](#)

If you want an evil force beyond your control, start writing a fantasy adventure. But here is the twist in the plot. Most likely your pen will sculpt a heroine to overcome that dastardly evil force... In other words...

It ain't no big thing!

r.e.joyce



Poppy's Pantry

A Cookbook made with
giggles and grins

By r.e.joyce

Monthly Recipe Adventure

We have begun a yearlong cooking adventure to create a cookbook that is - fun.

We would love to have you participate in this adventure.

Each month we are going to include a new recipe being developed in our test kitchen. (Location of the test kitchen is kept secret - even from Poppy... We believe it is somewhere under the pile of dishes he forgot to do...)

Your task, if you wish to participate is to:

Try the recipe and comment - help us make it better and add a family story or two to the adventure.

Take a picture of your completed dish and send it in as a jpg file...

Or add a recipe of your own and become part of the cookbook!

All proceeds of Poppy's Pantry and Grandma's Cupboard will be donated to North Texas Children's Hospitals.

Poppy's Pantry Recipe Listings

#	Recipe	Main Ingredient	Meal Course	Occasion / Holiday	Season
1	PP r.e.joyce Apple Pie		Desert		Fall
2	PP Cranberry Runaway	Garnish		Thanksgiving	Fall
3	PP Slow-cooker Pot Roast	Beef	Main		
4	PP Irish Soda Bread		Bread		
5	PP Piggy in the Pot	Pork	Main		
6	PP Chicken and the Piggy	Chicken	Main		
7	PP Texas Beef & Bean Chili	Beef	Main		
8	PP Spicy Stuffed Peppers	Beef	Main		
9	PP Picante Brunch Quiche	Eggs	Breakfast		
10	PP Burger in a Sombbrero	Beef	Main		
11	PP Sweet and Savory Beef Stew	Beef	Main		
12	PP Gastronomic Gobbler	Turkey	Main		
13	PP Thanksgiving Piggy	Pork	Main		
14	PP Chill Piggy Dressed for the party	Pork	Main		
15	PP Skillet Pork Chop Dinner	Pork	Main		
16	PP Pork Chop-Apple-Bean Packets	Pork	Grill		
18	PP Poppy's On-ends	Beef	multi-use		
19	PP Poppy's Italian Song Sauce	Beef and Pork	Main		
20	PP Peppered Pork Medallions in Tangy M	Pork	Main		
22	PP Poppy's Mac Surprise		Main		
23	Chris 20130910 Best Ever Cheese Cake		Desert		
24	GC Broccoli Casserole 20130930	Broccoli	Side Dish		
25	GC Cream Cheese Rollups		Desert		
26	GC Frenchy's Sweet Surprise Breakfast	eggs	Breakfast		
27	GC Grandma's Italian Backed Garlic Bread		Garnish		

Have a recipe to add...

We would love to include your favorite receipt in our Cookbook. The tradition of gathering around the table to enjoy good food and good friends is at the center of living a good life.

Feel free to contact us at bill.joyce@vismgt.com and submit your recipe. Let's work together to expand the fun of this wonderful tradition.



Grandma's Cupboard











What is in the pot is Love!

German Sweet Chocolate Angel Pie









Now, now you German Chocolate Cake lovers, this is a different critter! No coconut to be found, but tons of yummy goodness none the less. Besides, there are those days when a cake just will not do. A piece of pie is what Grandma ordered!

Meringue Shell:

-  Combine 2 egg whites and 1/8 tsp. Cream of Tartar in mixing bowl.
-  Beat well until foamy.
-  Add 1/2 C. sugar, 2 Tbsp. at a time, beating after each until sugar is blended.
-  Continue beating until mixture stands in very stiff peaks.
-  Fold in 1/2 C. finely chopped walnuts or pecans (opt.) and 1/2 tsp. vanilla.
-  Spoon into lightly greased 8-inch pie pan; make a nest-like shell, building sides up 1/2 inch above edge of pan.
-  Bake in a slow oven (300 degrees) for 50 to 55 minutes.
-  Cool to room temperature. (Meringue shell or entire pie may be made the day before).

*First one to
send in a
pretty picture
of this fine
recipe gets an
e-hug from
Grandma!*

Chocolate Angel Filling:

-  Place 1 package (1 lb.) Baker's German Sweet Chocolate and 3 Tbsp. water in a saucepan over low heat.
-  Stir until chocolate is melted.
-  Cool until thickened.
-  Add 1 tsp. vanilla.
-  Whip 1 C. whipping cream.
-  Fold chocolate mixture into whipped cream.
-  Pile into baked meringue shell.
-  Chill 2 hours before serving.



Order Your Cookbook Now!

We know that it will take some time to bake this project, but get on the list and receive the first cookbooks off the press! We will keep you informed and make you part of the Taste Testing Team. *No money now - just fun being part of the process...*

Send an email to <mailto:bill.joyce@vismgt.com> and join the master chefs with a cause.

Author Information



Julia Hagstrom
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Julia has embarked on a mystery tour bringing her years of life experiences and love of the written word to the pages of her own imagination. We just can't wait for her first mystery page turner!

*Seeking Book-Buddy
to join my Military
Thriller...*

Project Y



Mercy not spoken here

By Wathe W. Aceing

I would love to have someone, interested in military thrillers, especially with a women's point of view, have a read. This is the second in a novella trilogy and I would love another set of eyes to explore these emotions with me.

I would love to have the support of an author who would take an initial look at this rather dark thriller. Please contact me at bill.joyce@vismgt.com if you are interested.

About finding a Book-Buddy

A Book-Buddy is not your editor and not your publicist, but a fellow writer who understands your genre and is willing to join you on the journey of discovery that is writing. The gift of a Book-Buddy is akin to a best friend and, if you are lucky to find that type of match, it will elevate your writing and add pleasure to your journey. For me it is having another wonderful being willing to walk with me and share my imagination.

I hope to find you soon...

Why You Need a Book-Buddy

- ✍ They help you see things in your work that you can't see because you're too close to it.
- ✍ They support you and help you through those dark times when you think that next rejection might just push you over the edge and make you abandon your writing career.
- ✍ They encourage you to keep writing and climb out of the black hole of writer's block (*see featured article staring on Page 2 for author's counter perspective*), rejection and the isolation of being a writer.
- ✍ They share information with you that can help you find your way through the maze of writing, publication, industry trends, the submission process etc.
- ✍ But most of all, they 'get' you; they understand your habit. They understand that you can't help writing, it's who you are, and it's what you do.
- ✍ Instead of treating your writing 'habit' like an affliction, they treat it like a talent, a special talent.
- ✍ They understand that writing IS important and that what you are doing isn't quaint or cute; it's a real job and deserves real recognition.

Benefiting Can Be a Two Way Street

It may take a bit of work to get a Book-Buddy relationship up and running, but the benefits are definitely worth it. You can increase your motivation and productivity and build a lasting friendship.



Interesting meetings and other important happenings for authors

<i>Meeting with Link</i>	<i>Key Topic</i>	<i>Date & Time</i>
South Arlington Creative Writing Social Club	Check Meetup link for topics	Every Monday starting at 6:00pm
Eules Library Writer's Support Group	Author Critique Group	Every Third Tuesday starting at 7:00pm

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 Monthly Conversation belongs to you.

*Seeking Book-Buddy
 to join my Fantasy
 Adventure...*



I would love to have someone, interested in epic fantasy, have a read. This is my third fantasy novel and has just reached the point of being “done.”

I would love to have a support author who would take an initial look at this tale. Please contact me at bill.joyce@vismgt.com if you are interested.

Don't forget to check out our sponsors!

[DreamWriter Press](#)

A unique publishing service created with the sole intent to help new authors achieve their writing dreams.



[CrowdFund Roundup](#)

A co-operative network of industry, entrepreneurs and community dedicated to build a transparent Crowdfunding process that will make CR the place to come for startup capital.

