

Gregory A. Kompes, Editor

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In this Issue

- This Week
- Fabulist Flash Recommends
- What Google Sees
- Call for Submissions
- Banned Books
- 18Q with
Linda Weaver Clark

Upcoming Events

January 28

Writer's Pen & Grill

www.PenandGrill.com

April 16-18

Las Vegas Writer's Conference

Gregory will present
Internet ACE: Online Self
Promotion

April 29

**Meet the Authors (Clark
County Library, NV)**

Gregory and members
of Laudably Tar-
nished: A Poetry
Workshop host a Q&A
panel on poetry.



This Week

Happy New Year!

I always begin a new year with anticipation. I know that there will be many new experiences and projects to look forward to and that prospect is thrilling.

The big news this week is that I picked up the first printing of Patchwork Path: Grandma's Choice. It's a lovely first volume for this series. One of my favorite things in life is going to the post office to ship off books that

have been ordered. The trip this week was no exception. It felt great to wait in line at the post office while balancing the dozens of boxes. I didn't mind the attitude of all the other patrons who had to wait while the postmaster placed a postage label on each box and padded envelope, the next step in the journey of hundreds of pre-orders finally shipping out to their new homes. After all, each shipped package represents a sale and I'm in

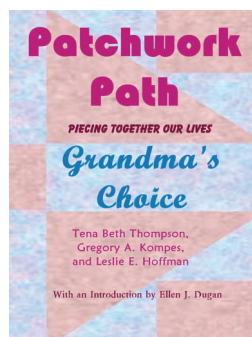
this business to sell books.

While I'm not a fan of New Year resolutions, I have vowed to do a better job keeping up with bookkeeping and paperwork in 2009. If anyone out there has a system that works well, please send me an email and share!

Keep Moving Forward!

~Gregory

Fabulist Flash Recommends



Mention grandmothers and everyone has a story or memory to share. This Patchwork Path volume, Grandma's Choice, is a collection of those heartwarming, inspirational, and funny stories from authors across America.

Order your copy today!

PatchworkPath.com

What Google Sees by Gregory A. Kompes

Keywords, while not the only factor, are an important part of the Google search algorithm. Want to know what keywords Google and the other search engines are using to rank to your Website? Here's a simple trick that I learned from SEO expert Steve Metzer. Do a Google search for your niche topic keywords by typing them into the Google search bar. When the list of sites comes up, click on the

hyperlink "Cached" that appears near the listing of each site. You'll notice that the screen you see now has highlighted text. Those highlighted words and phrases are the keywords Google is using to rank the site. If your site doesn't appear near the top of the list when you search for your industry keywords, take note of how the sites that do rank on page one of that

search utilize the keywords in their text. Now, add similar phrases to your own Website pages to improve your own rankings.

Call for Submissions

Patchwork Path: Friendship Star, Choice Publishing Group is seeking stories and essays about friends and friendship.

Submission Deadline:
March 31, 2009.

Submission Guidelines:
<http://patchworkpath.com>

Patchwork Path: Wedding Bouquet, Choice Publishing Group is seeking stories and essays about weddings.

Submission Deadline:
August 31, 2009.

Submission Guidelines:
<http://patchworkpath.com>

Presenters & Programs 2010, Advertise to 30,000 meeting and event planners in this full-color, glossy catalog from Fabulist Flash Publishing and Turning Point International.

Deadline: October 31, 2009

Details:

PresentersandPrograms.com

Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman



Originally self-published in 1989, *Heather Has Two Mommies* is the simple and straightforward story of a little girl named Heather and her two lesbian mothers. It was created by Newman and illustrator Diana Souza because children's books that reflected a non-traditional family did not exist,

but a firestorm of controversy soon ensued. Attacked by the religious right, lambasted by Jesse Helms from the floor of the U.S. Senate, and stolen from library shelves, it was an uphill battle for Heather. Thanks to the overwhelming support of booksellers, librarians, parents, and children,

however, *Heather Has Two Mommies* has sold over 35,000 copies, launched a minor industry in providing books for the children of gay and lesbian parents and, as attested to by a recent New Yorker cartoon, become part of the cultural lexicon.

Linda Weaver Clark Takes the 18Q

1. Did you choose the writing profession or did it choose you?

The writing profession came about in a very strange way for me. In 2003, I was interested in putting together my ancestors experiences into fun and interesting stories. I had all the facts, but they weren't put together in an interesting way so I read every book there was on writing non-fiction. After writing a dozen stories of my ancestors, I couldn't stop writing. So I turned to historical fiction. After writing 4 novels, I decided to send them to some publishers. And that was the beginning for me. I signed a contract with American Book Publishing in 2005.

2. What is your background? (education, work, etc.)

In 1998, I decided to go back to college and get my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music and Theater. My youngest was in 5th grade, so I thought it was about time to do something for myself. With the support of my husband and six daughters, I graduated in 2002. Right now I am a full time writer and help Spanish speaking children with school for 4 hours a day. I write articles for the American Chronicle and teach a writing class called Family Legacy Workshop. I fly all over the U.S. and teach people how to take their family history or autobiography and turn it into interesting stories that their children would enjoy reading.

3. When did you 'know' you were a writer?

When I began reading the stories of my ancestors that I had put together, I realized that I not only enjoyed writing but what I had written felt good to me.

4. How would you describe your style of writing?

I use description and emotion in my writing. Emotion is an important part of life, so I always bring into my stories what my characters feel. I love adventure with tender romance. I love to write stories with "good old fashioned values." I also love courage in the midst of adversity. When the hero wins, I applaud.

5. What is your writing process?

I first write down an outline of all the things I need in my story. I choose my location, time frame, and characters. Then I name my characters and outline their personality. Next I write a list of conflicts that my characters will have to take on, both internal and external conflicts. When I begin to write my story, I may use them all or I may not, and I may add some along the way. But at least I have my list as a guide. Then I choose my plot and subplots. If I don't have a plot at the moment, I'll just begin writing my story and it will eventually come to me. After my book is written, I then go over it about 5 or 6 times, editing as I go, taking out and adding as I go.

6. What was your path to publication?

I got the book "Writers Market" and found the publishers that did historical fiction. Then I did a search on the internet and found more. It took me about a year to find my publisher.

7. What is your favorite self-marketing idea?

I write articles for a few newspapers and for the American Chronicle. I submit an article each month and it's published on the internet for 21 chronicles. Also, I love to go to libraries and teach my writing workshop. I put articles in the newspapers about my class, which is free to the public. I try to get interviews from newspapers and radio stations at each town I go to. I use my books as examples of writing technique and sell them afterwards.

8. What are the biggest surprises you've encountered as a writer?

I was really surprised how radio stations don't seem to be as interested in interviewing an author that writes fiction. But if you write political stuff and books, then watch out. Those are the authors they want. Very disappointing but true.

Are you a published author?

Take the award winning

Eighteen Questions!

www.EighteenQuestions.com



Linda Weaver Clark Takes the 18Q

9. How do you inspire yourself? What are your sources of creativity?

I love writing, so inspiring myself isn't much work. My sources of creativity? When I lay awake before I go to sleep or when I first wake up, I begin to imagine things. My mind is clear then and I'm beginning to relax or awaken from a deep sleep. I tend to do my best creativity at that moment, when I'm laying in bed thinking about my characters. Sometimes, when an idea comes popping into my mind, I quickly write it down and go to sleep. If it's in the morning, I quickly go to my study and open my computer. Or I just think about it until I'm ready to get up.

10. What is your proudest writer moment?

When my first book, *Melinda and the Wild West*, won an award. It was a semi-finalist for the "Reviewers Choice Award 2007." There were only 10 semi-finalists among hundreds of entries.

11. What's the best advice you were given about writing?

To not worry about plots. They will come to you, so just begin writing. Otherwise, you may never begin.

12. What is your most embarrassing writer moment?

When I was giving a lecture, I had just gotten over the flu. I wasn't feeling too perky but was well enough to lecture. Besides, it had

been advertised and I couldn't disappoint the library who had put it together. Then it hit me real bad. I had to blow my nose. I didn't know what to do. I had to immediately grab my paper handkerchief, turn around, and blow. I was so embarrassed. Everyone told me not to feel embarrassed and that they understood, but I was completely embarrassed. It happened twice in a two hour lecture but everyone was so sweet about it. I've never had to blow my nose in public before this experience. How embarrassing!

13. What business challenges have you faced as a writer?

Learning to organize my time. Get libraries interested in having me lecture. Making sure I have enough libraries in an area in order to pay for my travel expenses. If I don't have enough libraries in an area, then what do I do? Those are my questions I have to ask myself each time I organize a Book Tour.

14. What is your writer life philosophy?

Dreams are a part of life. They become our goals. If we work hard enough, then we can accomplish our dreams.

15. When you're not writing what do you do for fun?

Eat homemade pizza that my husband makes and watch a video together.

16. Who do you like to read?

I have a variety of authors I enjoy. I love adventure stories, mysteries, and Christian love stories.

17. What's your advice for new writers?

You must believe in yourself first. If you do, then never give up and keep writing.

18. What are you currently working on?

I have five historical fiction novels in a family saga set in Bear Lake Valley, Idaho: *Melinda and the Wild West*, *Edith and the Mysterious Stranger*, *Jenny's Dream*, *David and the Bear Lake Monster*, *Elena, Woman of Courage*. They are a series but each book has its own story. You don't have to read them in order to know what's going on. Right now, I'm working on "David and the Bear Lake Monster" and "Elena, Woman of Courage" with two different editors that my publisher has assigned me. They should be released early next year. In between editing and my book tours, I've been writing another series, but it's not historical. It's an adventure series. I love adventure!

Bibliography

[Edith and the Mysterious Stranger](#)

[Melinda and the Wild West: A Family Saga in Bear Lake, Idaho](#)

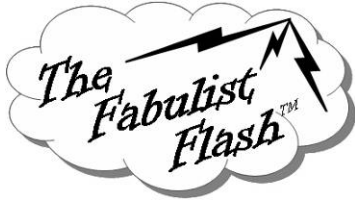


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Gregory A. Kompes provides information and inspiration in The Fabulist Flash, a weekly newsletter for writers. <http://www.FabulistFlash.com>.

About the Editor



Gregory A. Kompes is the author of the bestselling *50 Fabulous Gay-Friendly Places to Live*, and the *Writer's Series* that includes *Endorsement Quest*, *So, You Wanna be a Writer, Should You Write an Ebook*, and *Creating Your Online Media Kit*. He is also a

contributing author to *Chopped Liver for the Gentle Spirit*, *Chopped Liver for the Kindred Spirit*, *The Complete Writer's Journal*, and *Writer's Bloc*. Gregory is editor of *The Fabulist Flash*, an informative newsletter for writers, and *Eighteen Questions*, a Q&A series that collects and shares the experiences of published authors, chosen a *Writer's Digest* "101 Best Website for Writers" in 2007 and 2008.

Gregory is co-founder of the Patchwork Path series, Presenters & Programs, and the

Writer's Pen & Grill.

The author speaks frequently at conferences and teaches online courses on Internet Marketing and co-hosts the monthly *Writer's Pen & Grill* in Las Vegas, NV.

Gregory holds a *Bachelor of Arts* in English Literature from Columbia University, New York, a certificate in Online Teaching and Learning, and a *Masters of Science in Education* from California State University, East Bay.