

Gregory A. Kompes, Editor

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### *Upcoming Events*

**January 28**

**Writer's Pen & Grill**

[www.PenandGrill.com](http://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 Tarnished: A Poetry Workshop host a Q&A panel on poetry.



## This Week

I went to San Diego last weekend to hear Esther Hicks/ Abraham speak. It was a thrill. Plus, I had two glorious days of driving. I returned home filled with new ideas and inspiration.

As I continue to edit my NaNoWriMo novel, I've found myself thinking about a sequel. So, this week I got back to my 2000 word-a-day habit. It feels good to be pounding at the key-

board again!

With the recent release of *Patchwork Path: Grandma's Choice*, I've gotten to visit my friends at the post office a lot over the past few weeks. Several people have asked if I don't find such tasks to be menial. Absolutely not. In fact, mailing out books is one of my favorite things in the world! We become bestselling authors selling books to one

reader at a time. A book sold is a book sold.

The news this week is that the 18Q has reached a milestone: 150 interviews have been archived. Keep spreading the word!

Keep Moving Forward!

~Gregory

## Fabulist Flash Recommends

### **FFP Online Self Promotion: 52-Week Training Course**

Online self promotion is the only way to survive these days. It's expected by readers, clients, and publishers. Lucky for us writers, it's also rather cheap (virtually free,

in fact!)

The hard part is learning how to take advantage of the myriad of online tools and options available to us.

That's why I've developed the 52-week training course: **FFP**

**Online Self Promotion.** Designed in a weekly format, FFP is frequent, allowing for many small steps toward building your online self-promotion platform. And, it's cheap! Get more details at:

[FFPOnlinePromotion.com](http://FFPOnlinePromotion.com)

# Self Promotion through Online Book Reviews by Gregory A. Kompes

Most writers are avid readers. It's essential really. How can we become true experts in our field and within our genres if we don't keep up with what publishers are interested in? And, I have to admit, I've learned more about the craft writing by reading than from any class I've ever taken.

With all this reading going on it makes sense to get some additional mileage from the experience. If you've spent the time to read the book, why not write a review? In the process, you'll learn more about what you've read and the review will help you gain some much needed online exposure.

Some of the most difficult writing we ever do is creating that 1-2 paragraph synopsis of our books. Yet, it's somehow easier to do that

for works by other writers. Learning how to write brief descriptions of others' work, will also help you do the same for your own writing.

Search engines love relevant links. The days of gaining online rank by participating in link farms is over. Instead, search engines look for content links. If you're a writer, your review of another writer's work is seen as a content rich link. When you post your review of a book, be sure you've included some type of personal link. Additionally, provide links to the reviews you've had published on your own blog and Website. This back and forth combination makes the search engines happy and will improve your rank.

Need help learning how to write great reviews? Check out the eHow article: "How

to Write a Book Review" (<http://tinyurl.com/9k6kwh>) or "Writing a Book Review" from OWL at Purdue University (<http://tinyurl.com/95k99k>).

There are lots of places online looking for reviews. Do a Google search for online booksellers. Most of them allow reader reviews. Here are a few to get you started:

Amazon:  
<http://www.amazon.com>

Book Browse:  
<http://www.bookbrowse.com>

Book Club Queen: <http://www.book-club-queen.com/reader-book-reviews.html>

Barnes and Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Walmart:  
<http://www.walmart.com>

Powells:  
<http://www.powells.com>

## Books by and with Gregory A. Kompes



All Titles Available at [www.Kompes.com](http://www.Kompes.com)

## LAMOO Books author Spotlight: Darlien C. Breeze

Darlien C. Breeze, Las Vegas resident for 15 years, is a California native. *Mini Tales* is her first collection of short stories, published in July 2005. Darlien is also the author of *Import/Export and You*, a text book for classes she taught at the Community College of Southern Nevada, *Small Pony*, the story of a Navajo boy who must decide be-

tween his world and the world of the white man,—he resolves the issue by becoming a college trained Indian Agent—and, *Ghosts & Gamblers of Las Vegas*. Darlien's background includes twenty years as a classroom teacher, ten years as a real estate agent, and seven years as the owner of an import/export company.

Are you a published author? Offer your own books on LAMOO Books

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

## 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](http://PresentersandPrograms.com)

## Howl by Allen Ginsberg



*Howl and Other Poems* is a 1956 collection of poetry by Allen Ginsberg. It contains Ginsberg's most famous poem, "Howl," which is considered to be one of the principal works of the Beat Generation (along with Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957)

and William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* (1959)).

Howl contains many references to illicit drugs and sexual practices, both heterosexual and homosexual. On the basis of one line in particular, customs offi-

cials seized 520 copies of the poem on March 25, 1957, being imported from the printer in London. A widely publicized obscenity trial followed. The publisher won because the judge believed Howl of "redeeming social importance."

## B. J. Loft Takes the 18Q

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

I believe that writing chose me. I was good at writing in high school and during my twenty-seven years with the Department of the Army I wrote procedures and SOP's, performance ratings and justifications for funding. My supervisor said upon my retirement, "I could write volumes about nothing."

I have published my first novel, "The North Point Boys," which is a story of my growing up in a small town. The book is fiction because I added fictional occurrences. Some parts of the story are true.

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

After high school I joined the Air Force and after my discharge I went to work for the Department of the Army. I went to night school and earned by AA degree. I got married and my wife and I raised two sons. I belong to the American Legion, The Midwest Writing Center and I volunteer twice weekly at our local VA Clinic.

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

"The North Point Boys" is a story I wanted to write for a long time, but it wasn't until I retired that I had the time to put in the effort. When the book was published I knew I was a writer.

### 4. How would you describe your style of writing? and 5. What is your writing process?

I really liked Hemingway and Steinbeck, I read off of the classics and all of Thomas Hinkle's books. I start a paragraph or chapter signifying the beginning and the last chapter is a continuance of the first chapter outlining the consequence. I like using very unique murders or consequences at the end. From there I fill in the second scene.

### 6. What was your path to publication?

A friend of mine told me to mail out three query's a week. It took over a month before I received two responses. I had to make a tough decision as to which publisher to choose.

### 7. What is your favorite self-marketing idea?

My favorite self-marketing idea is book signing appearances.

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

The responses I have received from my first book-the kind words from those that don't know me but read the book.

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

As I mentioned earlier I volunteer twice each week. And on warm Tuesdays I fish. If I catch one okay if not that's okay too. As I set on the bank I do a lot of thinking and make a lot of notes. The inspiration come from within. I was at the VA Hospital in Iowa City waiting for a doctor. While waiting I noticed and old white haired man shuffling along the sidewalk, his suit was too big for his aging body and all I could see was the tip of his shoes.. I used him as a character in the book I am writing now.



*Are you a published author?*

*Take the award winning*

*Eighteen Questions!*

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

## B.J. Loft Takes the 18Q

### 10. What is your proudest writer moment?

When I got the notice that my book would be published.

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

Writing an outline and dividing the story into three acts and come up with a dark secret or accusation.

### 12. What is your most embarrassing writer moment?

Reading my book after it was published. The publisher's editor missed two corrections that I had brought to his attention.

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

None yet. I am keeping track of expenses and sales.

### 14. What is your writer life philosophy?

My philosophy is investigation and research. I only use four-letter words according to the personality of the per-

son I'm writing about and I use them sparingly. When I write about sex, I use innuendo and very little description.

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

Volunteer and fish and we have a grandson that we pick up after school on Thursdays. He's a joy in our life.

### 16. Who do you like to read?

I like to read mysteries especially John Grisham, Jeffery Deaver and Lisa Jackson. A new used bookstore opened and I went in and looked around. I picked up a book, "The Last Valentine." by James Michael Pratt. I don't know why I picked that particular book, but after reading it I can't imagine any man or woman not feeling the emotions of the story.

### 17. What's your advice for new writers?

I believe there is at least one story in all of us. I advise

new writers to purchase two books: "Story Structure," by Victoria Lynn Schmidt, Ph.D. and "Writing Fiction," Janet Burroway and Elizabeth Stuckey-French. And, join a local writing club and subscribe to Writer's Digest.

### 18. What are you currently working on?

I'm writing a book about Triplet sisters, "The Libra Trust," their lives loves, heartaches

## Bibliography

### The North Point Boys



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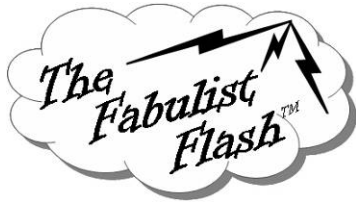
[www.EighteenQuestions.com](http://www.EighteenQuestions.com)

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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, the *Patchwork Path* series, 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. The author speaks frequently at conferences and teaches online

courses on Internet Marketing and co-host's 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.