

# WISE WOMEN WRITE™

## I AM A LATE BLOOMER

BY DIANE AMENTO OWENS

In my early 50s, I began writing for myself rather than for business and bosses. This led to my forming a writing group from which our co-authored book *LifeLines* was birthed in 2006. Then the book was the catalyst for my launch of [Wise Women Write](#) in early 2007.

Now, with the help of many wonderful writing women, I'm working on a new direction for Wise Women Write in 2010. Even as the colors of fall remind me of another of life's seasons, I know it's never too late for blooming.

A writer needs a web presence to bloom into the world, and blogs accomplish this easily. In experimenting with blogging in different places and with different platforms, I've discovered that WordPress is the best place for creating a blog.

With my never-too-late mentality and fearless attitude toward technology, I'm learning WordPress. Not just for blogs, WP is a really cool tool to create any web site. Recently, some friends and Wise Women have hired me to develop their WP web sites. Who would have thought my

love for words on the page would lead me to helping others write words on the web?

Don't let fear of technology stop YOU. Stick your toe in the shallow end first, as I did, and learn even one small thing each day. It doesn't have to be about technology, either. Learn all you can about a new genre and then practice writing in it. Or learn more about the genre you currently write in. Your brain will benefit, and so will your writing.

Wise women write, learn new things, and choose to bloom. -Diane



AUTHOR DIANE AMENTO OWENS BRINGS WOMEN TOGETHER TO WRITE, SHARE, AND BLOOM.

VISIT [WISE WOMEN WRITE](#) TO READ DIANE'S BLOG AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT NEW WRITING GROUP OPPORTUNITIES.

# BYLINES

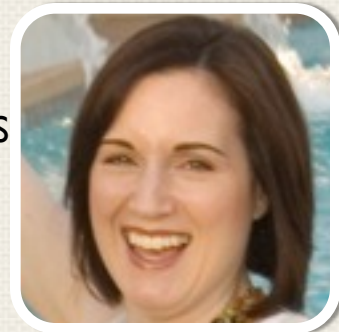
WHERE ARE THOSE WISE WOMEN GETTING PUBLISHED NOW?

MARYANN MCCULLOUGH'S ESSAY, "SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD," WAS PUBLISHED IN THIS MONTH'S *US CATHOLIC MAGAZINE*. THIS IS MARYANN'S FIRST NATIONAL MAGAZINE EXPOSURE. CONGRATULATIONS, MARYANN!



A SELECTION OF LAUREN DIXON'S FABULOUS POEMS WILL BE FEATURED IN THE UPCOMING ISSUE OF *THE BLUE GUITAR MAGAZINE*.

WINDY LYNN HARRIS' HUMOROUS ESSAY, "ME AND I PACK A SUITCASE," WAS PUBLISHED IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION OF *FEATHERTALE MAGAZINE*.



BETSY MCPHEE'S ESSAY, "THE SWEETEST GIFT" WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE UPCOMING ANTHOLOGY "A CUP OF COMFORT FOR A BETTER WORLD." OTHER STORIES BY MCPHEE HAVE APPEARED IN *QUIET MOUNTAIN ESSAYS* AND *RAISING ARIZONA KIDS MAGAZINE*.

TRISH DOLASINSKI'S THOUGHTFUL ESSAY, "ABOVE THE BOARD," WILL APPEAR IN THE WINTER EDITION OF *THE BLUE GUITAR MAGAZINE*.



# RETURNING THE FAVOR

BY SUSAN POHLMAN

## FINDING THE PERFECT WRITER/AGENT MATCH

To find an agent you must have three things: a marketable manuscript, good people skills, and a business mindset. No matter how talented you may be, no matter how unique your story, the bottom line is that publishing is an industry. Books are a business. Agents look for timely, captivating content and regard the writer as a business partner.

It is important to approach the process professionally. Put yourself in the agent's position and consider what would impress you about an untested writer who has presented himself/herself at your doorstep.

A great query letter, a thorough book proposal, the patience of Job, and a healthy respect for an agent's time go a long way. Manners are important. Who would want to enter into a lengthy partnership with a drama queen?

That being said, present your manuscript with confidence. You have worked hard on it and deserve to be recognized. Writing a book is a monumental achievement that few can call his/her own, but it is only the first step in the publishing process. Keeping that perspective helps tremendously when weeks drag into months and then into years. Yes, you read that correctly...years.

There is an agent out there for you. Someone will connect with your story. It takes time and effort to network, but you can do it...you wrote a book, didn't you? -Susan



JOIN US HERE EACH MONTH AS SUSAN POHLMAN REVEALS THE SECRETS TO HER PUBLISHING SUCCESS.

SUSAN'S DEBUT MEMOIR, "[HALFWAY TO EACH OTHER](#)," IS AVAILABLE NOW IN BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE! TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS AWARD-WINNING STORY, VISIT SUSAN AT HER [WEBSITE](#).



# CORNER THE MARKET

BY WINDY LYNN HARRIS

This week I had the opportunity to sit down over breakfast with a wonderful woman: local poet and painter Elena Thornton, founder of the Arizona Consortium for the Arts. I wanted to hear more about the consortium and find out why so many writers are members.

“We are eager to unite, advance, collaborate, partner, and support individuals and organizations in all aspects of arts, performing arts, literary arts and cultures in Arizona,” says Elena. She went on to tell me about a specific opportunity for writers.

The consortium’s first project is the [Blue Guitar Magazine](#), an arts and literary journal, exclusively featuring Arizona writers in all genres. The Blue Guitar Magazine publishes short stories, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Visit the magazine for information about the upcoming winter issue.

Other consortium projects encompass all artistic genres from Visual, Performance Arts and Literary Arts to Art Exhibitions and Cultural Events. The Arizona Consortium's vision for the future is to establish a multicultural, multi-disciplinary arts and performing arts center with theater, gallery, cafe, studios and classrooms; where children, teens and adults will become inspired to develop their creative abilities in all artistic genres. Become a member today--it’s free!

Visit <http://www.artizona.org/> for more information. -Windy

Opportunities to market your writing this month:

THE ANNUAL [SOUL-MAKING LITERARY CONTEST](#)

SEMI-ANNUAL [WRITER’S DIGEST COMPETITIONS](#)

ANNUAL [ABILENE WRITER’S GUILD CONTEST](#)

MONTHLY [GLIMMER TRAIN WRITING CONTESTS](#)

Need help getting those submissions out the door? Sign up for one of Windy’s [“Market Coaching for the Unpublished Writer”](#) sessions!



# SPINNING A GOOD YARN

BY TRISH DOLASINSKI, ED.D.

“The courage to listen to our hearts can revitalize the love that connects,” says Susan Pohlman, author of the newly released memoir, [\*Halfway to Each Other\*](#). The pace of the corporate rat race forced them into a lifestyle that almost took their love away and threatened to destroy their family. Suddenly they found themselves at the portal of the divorce court.

Following a corporate trip on the Italian Riviera, Susan and her husband Tim decided to escape the black hole of their affluent southern California lifestyle. After checking out American school options in Italy for their children, they quit their jobs, sold their home, and packed all their belongings into six suitcases. They committed to a simple life in a small seaside village near the city of Genoa, hoping to recapture love lost and enchantment dissolved . . . and save their family. *How many of us would have such courage?*

Before you snuggle up in that comfy spot in your favorite cozy corner this

week, you simply must snag a copy of Susan Pohlman’s memoir, [\*Halfway to Each Other\*](#) to read before you journal on the topic of courage in relationships and the prompts I offer. It will deepen your personal insight and help you consider your own courage as you ponder and write.

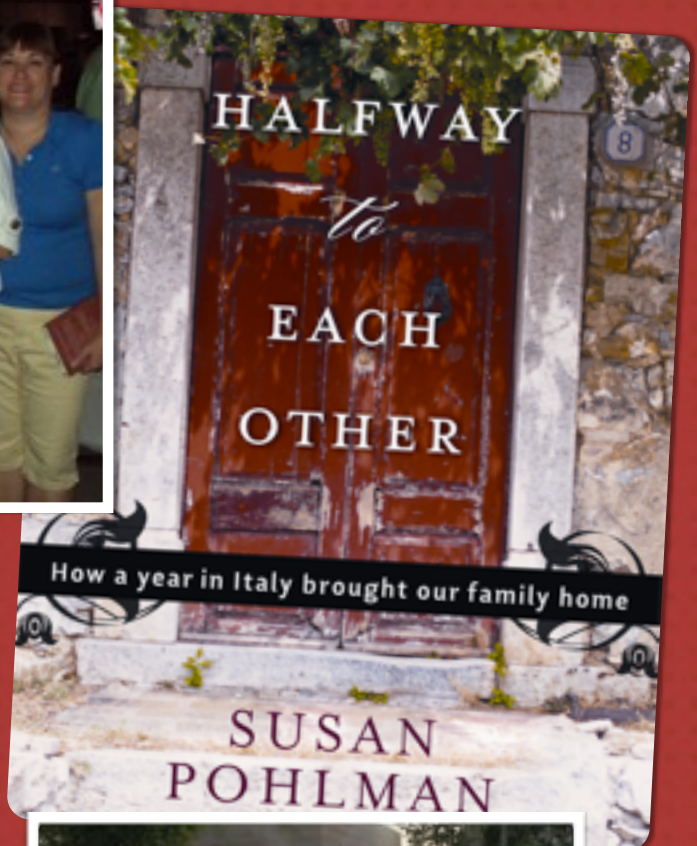
Relationships, like flower beds and tiny animals, need attention. Have you experienced a similar marital jostling, or felt the strain of a discontented relationship? Did you act upon the *voice of your heart*? What happened? When did you show courage relative to a personal relationship and what was the result? Considering emotional, material, social and economic impact, was your choice worth the sacrifice?

Courage is a key character trait. In the words of women’s advocate and poet, Maya Angelou, “Without courage, we can’t practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest.” – Trish

Visit Trish’s blog, [“SPINNING A GOOD YARN,”](#) for weekly journal prompts and a lively discussion!



# BOOK LAUNCH PARTY!



HALFWAY TO EACH OTHER  
BOOK LAUNCH PARTY  
AT GRAZIE

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT NEWS TO SHARE!

## \*FREE WRITING SEMINAR\*

WINDY LYNN HARRIS WILL PRESENT HER POPULAR SEMINAR, "MARKET COACHING FOR THE UNPUBLISHED WRITER," TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17TH AT 10 AM, HOSTED BY DOG-EARED PAGES USED BOOKS. PLEASE CALL MELANIE TIGHE AT THE STORE WITH YOUR RSVP: 602-283-5423.

MARYANN MCCULLOUGH HAS RE-LAUNCHED HER BLOG PROJECT, "[SHARING THE STORIES](#)." STOP BY AND ENJOY ONE OF HER STORIES TODAY!

VISIT RUDRI PATEL'S NEW BLOG, "BEING RUDRI," AT [www.rudrip.wordpress.com](http://www.rudrip.wordpress.com).

WE'RE LAUNCHING A NEW GROUP CALLED "WISE WOMEN WRITE BOOKS!" CONTACT [WINDY LYNN HARRIS](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WELCOME NEW WISE WOMEN WRITE MEMBERS ALYSSA LAMPE BAUMANN, CATHY ROGERS, AND RENEE RIVERS!