

Check It Out Column for week of Feb. 28-March 6

Would You Like to Be An Author?

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

I recall as a young mother raising three children and having a desire to be a children's writer. Unfortunately, I picked an unknown writing business out of a magazine and ultimately regretted my decision. Without a local support system, I eventually gave up on the dream.

Does this sound like you or someone you know? Would you like to be an author? You're not alone. Unlike my case, however, there is a support system for authors in this area.

Warsaw Community Public Library has been having a writing class each month for some time now. Judging by the number of regular participants, there is interest in becoming an author in this area. These classes are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. They are open to teens through adults. It's a wonderful way to get feedback on pieces written, get advice on how to start, and develop a relationship with other like-minded people.

However, perhaps you, the reader, for whatever reason, aren't able to attend the classes and receive the instruction, encouragement, and support of others. In that case, may I suggest the library resources listed below? Within their pages, you should be able to find answers to questions such as "Should I use a pen name?" or "Which are the best publishing houses to apply to?"

Don't plan to be published? Why not consider writing an autobiographical essay about your childhood or your parents for a family keepsake? Whatever you do, don't wait to start writing. Just start. Now.

The Everything Guide to Writing Children's Books/Lesley Bolton. From cultivating an idea to finding the right publisher. Helps you formulate an idea, find an illustrator, design a proposal, and negotiate a contract. 2002

Writing the Christian Romance/Gail Gaymer Martin. Chock-full of examples, and loaded with worksheets and exercises to get you started or help make your story salable. How to discuss issues of sin and forgiveness in believable ways and more!

See Jane write : a girl's guide to writing chick lit / by Sarah Mlynowski and Farrin Jacobs. An author and a former chick lit editor and scores of established writers offer advice and humorous tips plus, information on making your characters likable, basics of plotting, pacing and conflict, and finding an agent.

How I Write/Janet Evanovich. Discover how she comes up with her characters and thinks up those hair-raising plots. A perfect guide to strengthen writing skills.

Discover these resources and more at WCPL. Visit us at www.warsawlibrary.org or on facebook at our Teen Lounge at <http://tinyurl.com/nwwfx8> or at our regular facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/nu6kx7>.