

# KeyNotes

October 2009



*Ideas, Inspiration, and News You Can Use to Write and Publish Your Book*

## *Hello, Authors and Publishers ~*

Here they come...the holidays. Since Labor Day, the stores have had Halloween merchandise and candy. Now that Halloween is almost here the winter holiday decorations, house wares, greeting cards, and gifts already have their own aisles in the grocery stores. If you are anything like me, you are pretending it's all still a long way in the future, and refusing to be caught up in the "Only XX Shopping Days Left!" hysteria.

Give me a break! Maybe it's my years or just retail fatigue speaking, but for me the holiday season starts with Thanksgiving and is more about food, family, and friends than about spend, spend, spend. Sure, I'll peruse the catalogs that now clog the mailbox before I consign them to the recycling bin. But much of my buying will be in the baking supplies aisle, and instead of wrapping and shipping massive boxes of stuff that no one really needs, I'll be baking and giving things that no one really needs either, but that will taste really good.

## *The Cats are Coming*

*The Cat Lover's Book of Days* is closer to being a reality every day! A year's worth of cat photos, names, stories, silliness, history, humor, and miscellany is all coming together in time for the holidays. The schedule has been pushed back a bit so that the book will now come out in November, but there will still be plenty of time for the book to be a gift for your favorite cat lover (including yourself, of course!)

To simplify your own holiday, gift wrapping will be available for all books purchased through the website – watch for updates on that later in November on the book page: <http://CatBookOfDay.com>. For now, you can fulfill your minimum daily requirement of cat cuteness by visiting the Facebook fan page: <http://tinyurl.com/nplppu>.

## *Can I Quote You on That?*

Collaboration among writers and artists is not an easy thing to achieve. Each writer has her own way of expressing thoughts – her own voice – and finds it difficult to combine forces on a single story with any other writer. Artists are just as individualistic, just as protective of every brush stroke, every cut of the jeweler's saw, every turn of the potter's wheel. Ask an artist to combine his work with another's and you will see him struggle with the concept. Dame Agatha Christie knew this:

*"When two people are writing the same book, each believes he gets all the worries and only half the royalties."*

In a world of increasing group-think, literature and the arts remain as worlds where individual excellence can experiment and grow.

## ***My Word!***

Late October in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast U.S. is leaf-peeping time. The maples are putting on their annual show of red, gold, orange, yellow, and brown. Breezy days bring leaf whirlwinds that pile up dry leaves in drifts against gutters and retaining walls. Weekends you see people raking and bagging leaves that in earlier years would have been piled in the street to become fragrant bonfires.

A recent series of words in the Wordsmith.org daily emails covered the colors of fall, and in the process, I learned that I was using the wrong word for a particular shade. I always thought that russet described a reddish brown color like a dark terra cotta or a deep redwood. Wrong! **Russet** is a rich brown color.

If you don't already get your daily word, sign up at <http://wordsmith.org/awad/subscribe.html>. It's a nice bit of brain candy to start each day.

## ***Featured Article – 50 Years of Stories Just Waiting to be Told***

We recently attended my husband's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, and in the space of a couple of days I watched as old friendships were cemented and new ones created. I saw people in their 60's dance and sing as if no time had passed since the senior prom. And I saw other spouses and significant others, like me, gaining new appreciation for their husbands and wives.

The recurring feeling throughout was a blend of "I don't feel any different" and "Where did those 50 years go?" There was a sense of loss for the class members who have passed on, and great delight in the strength of half-century friendships still going strong. People who did not know each other in high school – or were in different groups – found common interests after 50 years of life experiences. Hours of conversation and laughter culminated in warm farewells and plans to get together again in a couple of years.

If you are ever in need of material or writing inspiration, attend a reunion. You'll find stories of triumph, tragedy, and everything in between. You will learn how people you thought you knew did things that will surprise you. In the space of a weekend, you will gather enough ideas to keep your fingers busy on the keyboard for hours. Especially if you are thinking of participating in the National Novel Writing Month in November (<http://www.nanowrimo.org>), find a reunion – high school, college, family, clan, whatever – and soak up the stories. Then write on!

## ***Staying Connected***

Social networking is a fact of life for many writers these days, and I'm not exempt. To help me stay in touch with people who have shared their cats' names and photos for *The Cat Lover's Book of Days*, there's the [Facebook fan page](#). I'm also on LinkedIn, and try to

remember to tweet on Twitter where you can follow me @McFrugal. Hope to see you in cyberspace.

## *The Keeper of the Keys*

That's me, Peg Silloway. Lover of words and collector of books. Publishing is a natural outgrowth of my life-long love of writing, and now I'm pouring that love of wordcraft into creating books that have something to say, that can make a difference, and that help authors' publishing aspirations become reality. Mix that passion for the written word with a background steeped in business reality - accounting, project management, and small business management - and you have The Silloway Press.



Isn't it high time you published your book? Call me at 301-335-9368, or email me at [Peg@SillowayPress.com](mailto:Peg@SillowayPress.com). Together we can make it happen. **Write On!**

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