

Through the Power of Words

February 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



Do you know your love language?



Happy Birthday to Me

In February, I turned 76. Three-quarters of century-plus!

Not sure how that happened, but it made me think about a conversation I had with a friend, probably 25 years ago. We had chanced to meet on a street corner, and I was telling him all the things I wanted to do in the future. He said I'd better get started, or I'd run out of time.

I responded that while I agreed with him about getting started, I hoped that when I reached the end of my life, I still had dreams to accomplish. To me, that meant that I had lived all of my life, that I had never reached the stage when I was just waiting around to die.

The older I get, the more I realize the truth of that adage: the journey is the destination. Happy journeying, everyone!

Out and About

This was a busy few weeks for me. Here, before we settle into an enjoyable hour together, I offer chocolates to members of the book club at Legacy House at Centennial Hills. Such a fun group. They asked quite a few questions about how I kept writing when it took so long to create the book, not to mention getting it published!



Here I'm sharing my author journey with writers at the Brew It Coffee House. This is a monthly event called Authors Do It at Brew It, sponsored by Sin City Writers Group.



And here I'm signing books at a Coffee House Tour appearance. I'm at the Coffee Class Coffee House with author friend Morgan St. James. It was chilly that morning, but the staff took good care of us. We had a nest of heaters on the patio!



Support an Author Day

OK, I made that up, but did you know that February 17 is National Random Act of Kindness Day? Why not focus your kind efforts on supporting an author, and why limit this to just a single day? There are many opportunities in Las Vegas and online to support authors. Here's just a sample. You can also check the websites for the Henderson Writers Group and Sin City Writers.

March 3, 2-4 p.m. Dime Grinds, hosted by the Henderson Writers Group, will feature three writers Fiona Cawdron, Dani King, and PJ McIlvaine. This is a zoom meeting. For more information, check the Henderson Writers Group Facebook page.

March 14, 6-8 p.m. Authors Do It at Brew It. This month's featured author is Paul Atreides, who writes the World of Deadheads books. And Brew It Coffee House is a great place to score a yummy pastry!

April 11-13, The Las Vegas Writers Conference. Lots of great workshops, opportunities to pitch to agents and editors, blue pencil sessions, and the plain fun of hanging out with people who love words and books. Register for this online conference at <https://lasvegaswritersconference.com/product/registration-2024-las-vegas-writers-conference/>

Finally, speaking of support, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has posted a review of *Knife Edge*. If you liked the book, please consider posting a review. And if there was something that didn't work for you, please consider emailing me at terri@terrimaue.com.

The Inside Scoop

Writers use many tricks to figure out how to develop their characters. I'm indebted to my primary critique partner Tonya Todd for this idea. Tonya hosted a podcast for one year, titled *52 Love*. (You can find this on YouTube; look for 52 Love Tonya Todd.) Each weekly podcast explored a different way to express love. One of those ways was to learn your partner's love language.

There are five (or more, depending on sources) love languages, defined as your preferred way to express your love for someone. You can take a quiz online to find out what yours is. Just search for love languages quiz.

The love languages are

- Words of affirmation
- Acts of service
- Gifts
- Quality time
- Physical touch

I'm not going to tell you the love languages for Zee, Rico, or Fontina. You can have fun watching for clues in the book. I will say that knowing a character's love language can suggest areas where tension might develop. Imagine, for example, that one person expresses love with gifts, but the other looks for words of affirmation. It might be easy for the word person to feel unloved or unappreciated if the partner isn't aware of the importance of words, and vice versa for the gift person.

If you'd like a fuller explanation, check out this TED talk at ideas.ted.com: *Do you know the 5 love languages? Here's what they are – and how to use them.*

The Great Pastry Hunt

Fruit Strudel from Patisserie Manon



This delectable pastry features four fruits nestled atop a layer of smooth rich vanilla cream filling, the whole resting on a base of tender, buttery pastry. The fruit is held in place by a clear, sweet, almost gelatinous, shiny glaze that melted on my tongue.

Each fruit section yields four or five bites. I encourage slow eating, to savor the dance of flavors.

The strawberries are firm but juicy, sweet but still tart enough to stand up the sweet creamy layer. The kiwi bursts with a tang on my tongue before being smoothed by

the vanilla cream. The blueberries are juicy globes, sweet-tart. The peach is the sweetest, but still offers a fresh counterpoint to the thick cream and the sweet glaze.

This pastry looks like a work of art. It tastes like a work of heaven!

Thanks to everyone who sent me suggestions. I have more bakeries to visit and more treats to sample. Research for book three!

If you'd like to suggest a bakery, email me at terri@terrimaue.com

Thanks for reading! See you in March!