



A note from our president, Gina Nelson

September 2010

I don't know the key to success,
but the key to failure is trying to please everybody. ~ Bill Cosby

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This month I'm writing my column from the bottom of a deep, dry well known as busy-ness. All around me slick, worn stones rise several feet into the air, imprisoning me with important tasks and responsibilities. I'm in no immediate danger for the well is dry, if a bit rank with the smell of desperation.

My children went back to school and so did I. Now it's up at 4:45 a.m. and home at 6:00 p.m. It's scrambling out the door, praying they remember their lunch money, and dragging back home, praying they remember how to do their homework. And as a teacher, it's assignments and lesson plans, passes and referrals, meetings, conferences, rehearsals, performances and, oh yes, uninhibited laughter and sticky hugs.

I try to escape this pit of activity to capture fleeting moments of solitude and personal creativity only to slide down to the bottom once again, where I'm forced to watch as puffy clouds of inspiration drift by in a cerulean sky of artistic bliss.

Have I given up? No. I have contest deadlines. I have ideas that will ferment in my brain if I don't write them down. I have a writers retreat just around the corner that demands characters, plots, and turning points. And I have critique partners depending on me.

So what do I do? If I can't work on my writing, I can work on my life so that one day soon, even tomorrow, I can carve out a moment or an hour to create something irreplaceable and uniquely my own.

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Inspiration exists, but it has to find us working. ~ Pablo Picasso