

Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...*

Patricia Corrigan



**Writing Workshop Leader, Nonfiction Book Author, Freelance Feature Writer,
Former Newspaper Reporter and Columnist, Speaker, Budding Playwright**

**Workshop: “Deadline Is My Middle Name”
on Saturday, June 3, 2006, from 10 AM until noon.
at Barnes & Noble, 9618 Watson Road, in Crestwood.
For a map, driving directions, and more, visit [CALENDAR](#).**

**Workshops are FREE to SLWG members;
\$5 charge for non-members can be fully credited toward dues within one month.**

AN INTERVIEW WITH PATRICIA CORRIGAN

Q. Your credentials are all over the place – just what sort of writer are you?

A. I’m the sort who will write whatever I’m assigned and turn it in before it’s due. I believe that writing skills are transferable, and I have used mine over the years to write everything from a Dummies book to articles on whale watching for *USA Today* to a high

school textbook on waterfalls of the world to newspaper columns on how pantyhose can kill and sushi is best when laminated and worn as lapel pins.

Q. You spent 23 years as a reporter for the *Post-Dispatch* before taking early retirement last November. Where in the paper did your articles appear?

A. Every section except Business, and that's because I've yet to master mathematics. At the *Post*, I worked as a feature writer, columnist, travel writer, restaurant critic, theater critic, book reviewer, food writer, fashion writer, news reporter and night city editor. Some of my favorite assignments were covering the Great Flood of 1993 and writing about women's health and animal welfare. Stories on the annual springtime rite of pothole repair – well, those weren't as much fun.

Q. Tell us about your freelance magazine work.

A. I've written for *Cruise Travel*, *Family Fun*, *Diversions*, *Northwest Parks & Wildlife*, *Radiance Magazine*, *Ms.*, *Lear's* and a former incarnation of *St. Louis Magazine*. I've also sold stories to newspapers, including one on whale watching the *Contra Costa Times* (San Francisco Bay area), one on Missouri wineries to the *Chicago Tribune* and one on the towns of Bandon, Oregon, and Bandon, Ireland, to the *Portland Oregonian*.

Q. You've had 12 books published and a new one is due out this fall. What are your books about?

A. A variety of topics! The newest is a textbook on waterfalls for *Facts on File*, part of a series called Extreme Earth. *Chemotherapy and Radiation for Dummies* is part of the national Dummies series. Virginia Publishing Company, a wonderful local business, published *Wild Things*, the first-ever history of the St. Louis Zoo, as well as *Convertible Dreams*, a collection of my Saturday columns from the *Post*. The zoo book is full of hilarious and heartwarming anecdotes about the animals and also remarkable photos that date back to the zoo's early days.

Q. Haven't you written other books about animals?

A. Yes -- NorthWord Press published six books for children, my menagerie that includes dolphins, sharks, manatees, beavers, cougars and whales. The whale-watcher's guide, now out of print and out of date, was my first book. Globe Pequot published it in 1991 and then NorthWord brought out a new version in 1994 and an update in 1999.

Q. How are you spending your time in retirement?

A. I still crave variety, so I'm leading creative writing workshops (see my website—link below), trying my hand at writing a play (you're invited to the premiere!), scheduling periodic speaking gigs, accepting the occasional freelance job and working with my agent to get a contract for a new book. Oh, and I'm scanning slides from trips taken years ago,

planning a visit to San Francisco to see my son and looking forward to meeting people June 3 at the St. Louis Writers Guild workshop. Life is good!

PATRICIA CORRIGAN'S BIOGRAPHY

Writing Workshop Leader

Certified leader in the acclaimed Amherst Writers & Artists method of creative writing.

Book Author

Twelve books, including:

- *Chemotherapy & Radiation for Dummies*
 - *Wild Things: Untold Tales from the First Century at the Saint Louis Zoo*
 - *Convertible Dreams*
 - Six children's nature books and *The Whale Watcher's Guide*
 - A dessert cookbook
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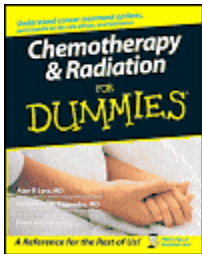
Freelance Writer

- Feature articles published in national magazines and newspapers all over the country
 - Promotional materials on paper and online
 - Media releases
 - Newsletters
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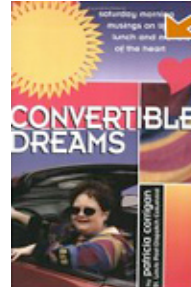
Motivational Speaker and Celebrity Emcee

- Professional women's groups
- Writers' organizations
- Civic gatherings
- Church groups
- Health fairs
- Schools

SOME BOOKS BY PATRICIA CORRIGAN



ISBN: 0764578324
Format: Paperback, 384pp
Pub. Date: April 2005
Publisher: Wiley, John & Sons, Incorporated



ISBN: 1891442147
Format: Paperback, 200pp
Pub. Date: May 2001
Publisher: Virginia Publishing Corporation



ISBN: 1891442171
Format: Paperback, 160pp
Pub. Date: April 2002
Publisher: Virginia Publishing Corporation

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