

SLWG Member Spotlight: *We're pleased to present...*

Debbie Fox



SLWG Member Since January 2008 2008 SLWG Member of Distinction

Although she was born and raised in the St. Louis/Metro East area, **Debbie Fox**, a creative nonfiction writer (personal essays and memoir), lived in California for twenty-six years. She returned to her Midwestern roots in 2005 and joined SLWG in January 2008, finding friends as the SLWG slogan proclaims. At the Missouri Writers Guild Conference in Columbia that April, she volunteered to assist with the pitch sessions and met editors and agents who weren't as formidable as she had imagined.

While studying creative writing in California, Debbie was first published in a college textbook: *Writing Well, A Guide to English 101 at College of the Canyons*. Her essays have appeared in *Women on Writing*, *The Fellowship Link*, *Sasee*, *Plainsfaith*, *Now What?*, *Lipstik*, a monthly women's magazine edition of the Belleville News Democrat, *MVP Outdoors*, and three feature articles in *HeartLand Boating*. "In Development," a memoir, was published in December 2008 online in the inaugural edition of *Literal Chaos*. The National League of American Pen Women awarded Debbie for her humorous essay, "Prep Time" in the 2008 Soul-Making Literary Competition.

"A New Season," first published January 2008 in *Sasee*, compared the demise of Debbie's thirty-three-year marriage to a losing Lakers basketball team. The essay has been accepted for publication in an anthology, *I Didn't Get Old Being Stupid*, scheduled for 2009 release. Also on the horizon, Debbie has another feature article slated for *HeartLand Boating* this April.

A graduate of Jewish Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis, Debbie worked as a registered nurse for twenty-two years, most of her career at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, located between NBC and Disney studios in Burbank, California. Besides staff nurse experience in orthopedics, neurology, and vascular nursing, Debbie's career included positions in nursing education, administration, and management. She wrote policy and procedure manuals and developed self-study programs for the continuing education of nurses.

No longer nursing, Debbie continues writing and manages the publicity for her church and the Kaskaskia Mariners Association, submitting articles and press releases to five area newspapers and publishing quarterly newsletters for both organizations. Debbie is seeking publication for her first book, ***Living in My Skin, Even if it's Purple***, a completed 65,000-word memoir. Her writing and nursing experiences helped her weave her story of living with an extensive port wine stain and of handling the encompassing problems associated with her difference. Although born with a birthmark, she has embraced life and overcome challenges, including paralysis during pregnancy. She hopes that ***Living in My Skin, Even if it's Purple***, her story of courage and revelation, will inspire self-acceptance in those who have a less than perfect image and will serve as a stimulus to others to move beyond differences.

Currently, Debbie is working on second book, *Something About Rainbows*, an account of the circumstances that led to the shocking discovery her only child, a seven-year-old daughter, had AIDS. Despite innumerable challenges and overwhelming sadness in her life, Debbie seeks to understand the lessons imparted and looks to the Lord for strength. You'll always find her smiling, and her writing, often tinged with humor, reflects her positive attitude.

Debbie lives near her family in Smithton, Illinois with her Coton de Tulear puppy Kobe, named for Kobe Bryant, the NBA's reigning MVP. Debbie's an avid Lakers fan and has a passion for reading, swimming, playing the guitar, and singing, albeit badly. Visit her web site and blog at www.debbiefox.com