

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Author and playwright guiding others toward publication

Jaye McKittrick
The Chronicle-Telegram

Goals can be stepping stones to the prizes of our lives. As a writer, the goal is to write, get published and to become an author.

A lucky few will stop there and write themselves to national acclaim and forget about all of the hard work, the trials and the time that you never have but have to make.

This is not the approach of local author, editor, teacher and playwright Kelly Boyer Sagert.

Sagert, 51, has dedicated her writing success to helping other writers to better their craft, continue on the hard road to publication and to be inspired to continue the part of the process that is the most important: the writing.

She was born in Akron but

moved to Lorain at 3 months old. She graduated in 1979 from Lorain High School. Going on to Bowling Green State University, Sagert received her bachelor's degree in psychology.

"My high school counselor and a college professor suggested that I focus on writing as a career, but it wasn't until I was 29 years old and pregnant with our older son, Ryan, that I got the urge to write — and it hasn't left yet," she said.

Since her first publication for Cats Magazine in 1990, Sagert has written for hundreds of magazines, newspapers, websites, encyclopedias and literary journals with her focus on biographical and educational material. She has 11 published books, an e-book, and has had other work printed in several publications.



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She has served as editor for Northern Ohio's Over the Back Fence magazine and has taught classes offered at Writers Online Workshops program by Writer's Digest.

In 2009, Sagert wrote her first play, "Freedom's Light: A Stop Along the Underground Railroad," which was performed in 2009.

In August, Sagert's second play "Trail Magic," based on the life of Emma Gatewood,

will be performed.

"Sisters Forever: The Burrell Family Letters," is scheduled to be performed in 2014.

Sagert's resume puts her in an elite class, but it is her writer's conference, giving back to other local writing hopefuls, that makes her shine. She credits her own achievements to the networking of writing conferences. As she started on her writing career path, she would pitch herself at

events and found that it was a great way to network and, fortunately, the work followed. She hopes to offer the same stepping stone to other local writers.

She has organized a conference with True North Cultural Arts and the Lorain County Metroparks, assisting in many types of writing projects and genres.

On Saturday, she will be hosting the Heritage Presbyterian-International Writer's Association Christian Writer's Conference. It will take place at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Amherst and costs \$10 to attend. Sagert's goal is to hold affordable and helpful conferences that help to guide others into publication.

"I remember what it was like to want to get published, so desperately!" she said.

She encourages the public to attend a free nature poetry workshop at French Creek Arts and Nature Center on Aug. 22.

Other events to put on your calendar:

■ An open mic poetry night with nature theme on Aug. 23.

■ The opening of her play, "Trail Magic," at the French Creek Arts and Nature Center at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 24.

■ **To reach Sagert**, you can find her at Facebook.com/kbsagert or Twitter.com/kbsagert.

Jaye McKittrick, a graduate of Lorain Admiral King High School who has studied at LCCC and BGSU, writes about the talent in Lorain County. Contact her at jayemckittrick@yahoo.com