

*Harvest Baskets of the Heart*  
*Legends, Tales, and Truth about Women and Families Near and Far*  
(formerly called *Women in the Family*)

Welcome to the first newsletter for *Harvest Baskets of the Heart*! You are receiving this because you have already submitted a story to be considered for the *Harvest Baskets of the Heart* anthology or because you have expressed interest in submitting a story. Your editors, Jo Carubia and Michele Glorie, want to thank you for your patience, encourage those of you who are still writing, and let everyone know what's going on with the book.

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***Women in the Family* Becomes *Harvest Baskets of the Heart***

If you submitted your story awhile ago, you will notice that the collection has a new name. Our first edition of this anthology was a small, hand-made book we self-published about six years ago. It was called *Women in the Family*. Its circulation was primarily among the contributors and their families. We kept that title for the current anthology until recently when we prepared a proposal for agents and editors in our search for a "real" publisher. We wanted a more polished title that is broad enough to name a series. We can already envision future volumes of stories on other heartfelt themes. Of course, when we find a publisher, they may have further suggestions for the title and for future volumes! If you would like to see the book proposal we have submitted for review, please send an email to Jo at [jo.carubia@gmail.com](mailto:jo.carubia@gmail.com).

**Deadlines to Achieve Goal of 200 Stories**

Our goal for *Harvest Baskets of the Heart* is to have approximately 200 stories of about 250 to 500 words each. We have been using "rolling" deadlines over the past months to encourage contributors to seize the moment and send us their narrative while it is still fresh and plump. For those of you who rushed to submit by a deadline and are now wondering why the book isn't finished, we are so grateful for the inspiration of your stories which keep us motivated to help others fulfill their desire to share important memories from their lives. If you are currently working on a story, we would like to receive your submission by June 15, 2009. You may send your submission to either editor at [mgp0506@gmail.com](mailto:mgp0506@gmail.com) or [jo.carubia@gmail.com](mailto:jo.carubia@gmail.com).

## **Harvest Baskets Writing Workshops**

Jo Carubia has begun offering *Harvest Baskets of the Heart* writing workshops to groups of people who want to contribute stories, but aren't sure how to begin. In late March, she met with the Holy Goats spiritual book group and with the Wonders of the World International Women's Book Group. In sessions of about an hour and a half, participants received notebooks and wrote on at least three topics, sharing family stories and personalities along the way. The "Magic Treasure Box" activity brought forth stories about influential women connected to a silver fork, a green car, a torn kimono, a balcony, two paintings, and a piano. One participant wrote afterwards, *The topic fit perfectly with the scope of our group and we're all very excited about trying our individual hands at producing a memory for your collection.* Anyone who participates in a workshop is invited to have a brief "Tell Me a Story" session with one of the editors. The story told orally will be recorded and transcribed for the author's review and editing. If you or anyone you know might be interested in hosting a workshop for a group of five to ten people, please contact us at [jo.carubia@gmail.com](mailto:jo.carubia@gmail.com) or [mgp0506@gmail.com](mailto:mgp0506@gmail.com).

## **Proposal for *Harvest Baskets of the Heart* Under Review**

We have submitted the *Harvest Baskets of the Heart* proposal to several people for suggestions and comments before sending it to agents and editors more widely. Colleague, teacher, and writer Kate Staley, Ph.D., has reviewed the proposal and offered many incisive suggestions. Inge De Taeye of the Karpfinger Agency in New York City has also agreed to read our proposal and offer feedback. We are in the process of making a list of editors and agents to receive the revised proposal. If you have suggestions for us, please send them to Jo at [jo.carubia@gmail.com](mailto:jo.carubia@gmail.com).

## **Celebrity Contributors**

We have compiled a list of well known authors and other public figures who have published books or otherwise shown a commitment to the stories of women's lives. Michele is researching contact information and will soon send an invitation for them to submit a short narrative to *Harvest Baskets of the Heart*. We also have a short list of persons who will be invited (one at a time) to write the introduction to the anthology. If you have a good contact or ideas of how to get a submission or quote from a well-known person, please write to Michele at [mgp0506@gmail.com](mailto:mgp0506@gmail.com).

## **Who Are Your Editors?**

We thought you would like to know a little more about us, so we are including short biosketches in this first newsletter.

### *Josephine M. Carubia, Ph.D.*

Jo Carubia brings energy and imagination in addition to skill and experience with a wide variety of audiences to each of her book projects. She has presented workshops and published on topics such as education, organizational transformation, community engagement, work-life balance, leadership, professional development for non-profits, cognitive vitality, and women's issues. Her most recent project, a book-length memoir written for a client, is currently in production.

Jo spent ten years in New York City as an editor who negotiated contracts as well as acquired and developed new manuscripts for adult non-fiction books. Ruth Handler, co-founder of Mattel and creator of the Barbie Doll, and Mary Higgins Clark were among authors she worked with in person. She has taught writing to adolescents, college students, and adults. She held the position of Chief Academic Liaison Officer for the Penn State College of Medicine and Milton S. Hershey Medical Center before starting her own business, *Metaphorical Ink: Results Through Writing*. While

at Penn State, Dr. Carubia facilitated intercampus projects with physicians and scientists, administered a University-wide task force on health sciences, and organized community-campus collaborations.

Over the course of her career, Jo has received a number of awards, including an NEH Fellowship at Tufts University, a Penn State Administrative Fellowship, and an Achieving Woman Award from the Penn State Commission for Women. She holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University and a certificate from the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

On the personal side, Jo began her career as a college drop-out, survived a storm at sea in a small sailboat, worked on a farm, and has been lost in cities on three continents. She has an abiding attachment to moveable type and once declared, out loud, that she was the reincarnation of Virginia Woolf. She and her husband, philosopher Vincent Colapietro, have four children and an ongoing, lifelong conversation about books, writers, art, improvisation, imagination, and much more.

### *Michele Glorie*

With a passion for writing and communicating, Michele began her career in public relations by promoting pickles. One of her first projects was proposing an annual “Pickle Day” to the mayor of New York. After publicizing a variety of consumer brands, she found her niche working in high-tech PR agencies. Communicating on behalf of various clients in Boston and New York, she experienced the dot-com boom and the dot-com burst. She has spent the past ten years overseeing communications for one of the largest technology companies in New England.

When she’s not at work writing press releases, strategizing about product launches, and devising plans to communicate about company developments to employees around the world, Michele is raising her two young sons. She is mesmerized by the way children think. Her days are filled satisfying inquiring toddler minds seeking to understand, “Where does the moon go when it’s not in the sky?” and “How does a baby breathe when he’s in the mommy’s belly?” Michele captures these cherished memories in a journal for her boys. She aspires to write a children’s book to nurture the inquisitiveness of little minds.

Inspired to travel at the age of fourteen on a family vacation to Italy, Michele has toured the Forbidden City in Beijing; climbed the Eiffel Tower in Paris; witnessed the breathtaking cliffs of the coast of Mallorca, Spain; and enjoyed lazy days on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina. She has walked the Las Vegas strip and visited Mickey Mouse’s turf on more business trips than she can count on both hands.

Michele grew up in the scenic Hudson Valley in New York where her daily chores included collecting eggs from the chicken coop before school. In her early adult life, she lived steps from the Freedom Trail in Boston’s Little Italy, where she awoke every day to the sweet aroma of bread baking at the neighborhood bakery. Her early 30s were spent in New York City living a stone’s throw from the Flatiron Building. Today, she lives in an 1830 colonial home in what she believes is one of the quaintest towns in New England.

### **Some Tips for Writing**

We have recently received stories about a wise aunt who mentored her niece out of an unhealthy relationship, about another aunt whose illness and disabilities were invisible to the niece who adored her, and about a woman who survived horrific experiences during the Korean War to create a new life in San Francisco. Everyone has a story!

#### *Use a list to help you get started:*

One way to get the words flowing is (1) to make a list of all the women in your family, going back as far as you can remember, and as wide as the branches of your family tree will take you. After

you make the list, (2) go back and jot down a **place** or an **object** that you associate with each person. If you get stuck and can't think of anything for a person, just move on. Your goal is to have at least five or six people matched with a place or an object. Now, for each of these women matched with a place or an object, (3) write the woman's name and place/object at the top of a clean sheet of paper. Write a little about who the person is and how she is/was part of your life. Write down why you linked the woman and this place or object. After you have introduced this woman by telling about her and why you associate her with this place or object, (4) begin to tell a story about her. Begin with the words, "One time . . ." The story does not have to be about the place or object, but it might be about that. When you finish telling what happened, (5) write a few words about how this had an influence on you.

*Fill in the blanks to help you get started:*

Here are some "fill-in-the-blanks" sentences that have helped others recall stories about influential women in their families. Try them out and see if one of these reminds you of a story you can write down.

In my family, women achieved their goals by \_\_\_\_\_.

I never understood why \_\_\_\_\_ ( did) \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is/was the woman in our family who was always different.

My \_\_\_\_\_ always treasured her \_\_\_\_\_.

*Family Reunion Stories*

Pretend you are going to a family reunion. You are sitting around a picnic table with your cousins, reminiscing about when you were children. Do you have any stories about their mothers (your aunts) that they might not know? Are there favorite stories about your grandmothers that you always tell each other and laugh? Are there family stories that make everyone around the table get quiet and a little sad? Sometimes we begin these stories by saying, "Did you know that Grandma Alice . . . ?" or "Remember the story Dad used to tell us about when his mother was dying?"

If you prefer to talk or tell the story (rather than write it down), try to use a digital voice recorder that will allow you to send us an audio file or let us know and we'll find a way to record your story for you.

*A book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside us.*

F. Kafka (Wikiquote, 4/1/09)