

Pieces of paper tacked up by your writing desks

My post-it number one has the days of the week in Maori; number two has the names of two books I intend to read sometime: *Burning Down the House* by Charles Baxter and *On Becoming a Novelist* by John Gardner. Frank Nerney, Auckland, New Zealand - fnerney@xtra.co.nz

Those who were dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music. (Nietzsche)

Even when the urgent is good, the good can keep you from your best and keep you from your unique contribution, if you let it. (Steven Covey, *First Things First*.) The great composer does not set to work because he is inspired, but becomes inspired because he is working. (Ernest Newman)

Put your butt in the seat and write.

Face your demons!

Mine is a Post-It note from my (last) Alma Mater, Mills College which says, 'Remember who you are and what you represent.'

'I once wrote a short story called 'The Best Blues Singer in the World' and it went like this: 'The streets that Balboa walked were his own private ocean, and Balboa was drowning.' End of story. That says it all. Nothing else to say. I've been re-writing that same story over and over again. Not sure what it means, other than life is hard.' – August Wilson. Sylvia Reed sreedw@aol.com Palmetto, Florida

'Have great, secret, big, fat dreams for yourself.' Gloria Vanderbilt

I have Hemingway's 'Basic Rules For Writing'

I have many, but one is 'The power to work is another youth.' Vincent van Gogh. Another is a fortune cookie: Your path is arduous but will be amply rewarded.

It is the willingness to be always a beginner that distinguishes a creative career. Pauline Kaill Halifax

The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without the work. – Emily Zola

It's an old advertising bulletin with the headline, 'Can You Write?' I ask myself that question every day. It should also say, 'Will You?'

Yes, I have that 'little piece of paper'. It says, 'Everything is easy when you know what to do!!!'

'Conscience over Convenience' It's just a little reminder to do what I know is right over what is easiest at the moment.

I have two. The first is 'You must do the thing you think you cannot do,' by Eleanor Roosevelt. This is for courage. The second is a picture of a glow worm and the caption reads: I would like to be a glow worm because glow worms are never glum. How can you be grumpy when the sun shines out your bum? This one is for comic relief when I'm really frustrated with something I'm working on.

The best way to get something done is to begin.

It is the phone number for my internet server. I have it there in case my service shuts down – some stories I send via internet.

Conflict, conflict, conflict. That's what keeps the reader reading.

We write to taste life twice. – Anais Nin

Get on with it. Veronica O'Donohue, Littlehampton, U.K. veronicaspook@yahoo.co.uk

Success in whatever area you choose depends on how willing you are to develop the skills necessary to bring it forth. Are you willing to devote the necessary time and energy it takes?

No excuses!

'Critics are like horseflies which prevent the horse from plowing.' – Anton Chekhov

`` `` The code I needed to create links in my blog. I know the code now and don't need the paper any longer (it's curling up from age), but it's still there because one of my sons was so impressed when he saw it. 'Hey! Mom's writing code!'

Mine is a schedule. I'm pretty anal that way.

Do the work.

Lie in my mind.

A quote from Mary Catherine Bateson: 'What we call familiar is built up in layers to a structure known so deeply that it is taken for granted and virtually impossible to observe without the help of contrast. Encountering familiar issues in a strange setting is like returning on a second circuit of a Mobius strip and coming to the experience from the opposite side. Seen from a contrasting point of view or seen suddenly through the eyes of an outsider, one's own familiar patterns can become accessible to choice and criticism. With yet another return, what

seemed radically different is revealed as part of a common space.'
It's not like you have a choice. You do. You can either type or kill yourself. (Anne Lamott)
My little piece of paper is actually numerous little pieces of paper, and they are all story ideas or little chunks of perfect dialogue that came to me during the middle of the night. No sleep for writers, I guess.
I write for the same reason I breathe: Without it, I would die. – Isaac Asimov
I have several notes tacked up. Two of my favorites are: 'The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.' – Mark Twain 'I write to discover what I know.' – Flannery O'Connor Judy Lee Green JudyLeeGreen@bellsouth.net Murfreesboro, TN
The purpose of life is to discover your gift, the meaning of life is to give it away.
A line from a Radiohead song: 'Stop whispering, start shouting.'
So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past. – F. Scott Fitzgerald
Shoot the critic, fill the page.
You are the author of your life.
'Try to leave out the part that readers tend to skip.' ~ advice to writers from Elmore Leonard, in The New York Times.
'What would Wilder do?' Billy Wilder used to have the same, but referring to Lubitsch
Act now, and you can have it all!
I have two. One has two quotes, 'Talent is a long patience.' (Chekhov) and on the same sheet, 'Keep swimming! Keep swimming! (Dory from "Finding Nemo")' The other one is by Cynthia Ozick:(para.) 'Don't limit yourself to write what you know...it's when we write toward what we don't know that we become open to the whole world.'
I have many at different times. My favorite is 'I will not fail!' Another one is 'Forget the laundry, just write.'
'The first draft is always shit.' Ernest Hemingway
My little piece of paper says, 'Risk is the price you pay to reach a place that blasts your spirit clean.'
'If you can't piss people off, why write at all.'
Here is a pile of think.
'What do I know that's true?'
'The hard is what makes it great.' -Tom Hanks in "A League of Their Own"
It is currently a small sticky note with three ideas for 'themes' to explore: Us versus Them; Youth; Mine.
It's not exactly little – I have the lyrics to "Sympathy for the Devil" posted nearby. I don't know why, just that sometimes I'll glimpse a few lines and, silly as this may sound, it makes me want to wade into the fray and LIVE! And that certainly spills over onto the page.
One says: "One reason for writing, of course, is that no one's written what you want to read." –Philip Larkin. I find that, even though I'm a passionate reader, there's some truth to that. Indeed, no one has written your own story. The other is a poem by an unknown Native American. I like the atmosphere it creates and the universality it evokes. The poem's ending is: "Don't stand by my grave and cry. I am not there; I did not die."
'You write and while you write you are ashamed for everyone must think you are a crazy one and yet you write and you know you will be laughed at or pitied by everyone and you are not very certain and you go on writing. Then, someone says, "yes" to it and never again can you have completely such a feeling of being afraid and ashamed that you had when you were writing and not any one had said "yes" about the thing.' – Gertrude Stein
I'm mortified. How did you know? My local SS office no.; one I can remove now that I've finished the article for the magazine I write for regularly; my phone card; an appt. reminder for a charlatan doctor I won't see any longer; computer maintenance note; one says 'Al..., a number, bread, call W'. Have no idea. Two next notes are friends' numbers, and two stamps without backing, hanging from their corners. Thank you for the housekeeping reminder!
No, Sara, this isn't a good time to arrange flowers on the desk.
I wish I had enough space to tack up something creative. I basically write in a closet.
The Earth laughs in little tiny flowers.
'Writing is hard. Writing is a craft. A craft can be learned.' I think that comes from John Gardner.
I have a note to myself: Write every day for two to three hours! I also have a bulletin board with my ideas and weekly goals posted on cards that I can remove and move around as priorities change and projects are completed. The board keeps me organized – and honest in what I'm trying to accomplish. Patricia Kelemen Szuhaj Philadelphia, PA
'There is no such thing in anyone's life as an unimportant day.' –Alexander Woolcott

Rules for Writing Good- Each pronoun agrees with their antecedent. Verbs has to agree with their subjects. Don't use no double negatives. A writer mustn't shift your point of view. Don't use a run-on sentence you got to punctuate it. About sentence fragments. Don't use a preposition to end a sentence with. Use apostrophe's right. Last but not least, Lay off clichés.
Everything is possible.
Notes to Self
It's a check written out to myself for \$150,000 for 'Honest Self-Expression'
Last summer I attended a writing workshop taught by one of my favorite authors, Bret Lott (<i>Jewel, The Hunt Club</i> , and other novels), editor of the <i>The Southern Review</i> . On the last day of class, he distributed rejection notices and told us to get used to receiving them, and gave us the grim truth about publishing short fiction. Strangely, it's a reminder to me not to fear rejection. ['After careful consideration, we have found we are unable to use your manuscript. We wish you the best in finding a home for it elsewhere.'] I have that slip and some beautiful lines from a Flannery O'Connor story taped to my desk: the former as an antidote for discouragement, and the latter for inspiration.
Respond to every call that excites your spirit. – rumi
'Success is the ability to go from one failure to the next with no loss of enthusiasm.' Sir Winston Churchill (Hello, G Train sisters! I'm finally back to the computer after writing in my head for the last 6 mos - new baby, 3 yr old starting preschool, etc. Anne Miller anne@walshmilller.com)
'Write a little every day without hope or despair.' Isak Dinesen
Oh, uh, thanks. I've got a reminder for something that I've already done. Away with that little piece of paper!
It's never too late to become an accountant!
Deadlines. It lists the upcoming target dates for everything from contest entries to newsletter closings to writers' club 'open mike' read-aloud events: everything I want to prepare material for or at least keep in mind. I find that if I treat them as commitments, it helps me motivate myself to finish something. Meredy Amyx, San Jose, California
'You cannot transcend that which you do not know.' -Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj
rule 1: do not try to correct the World Wide Web. rule 2: some things are better left mysteries rule 3: when nice people write you stupid letter, delete without comment
Have the courage to follow your talent to the dark place. Let words spill all over!
I usually never have a small piece of paper by my table. The reason being, I live in a single room in Bangkok, Thailand and when it's time to write or check email, I pull out a small Japanese style table, unfold the legs, and sit on the floor and write. I imagine it must be doing drastic things to my lower back, so in the near future, I'll purchase that desk. But it's choosing that right one. Just haven't found it yet. For now, that small piece of paper is tucked into the bottom of the bag I use daily. It says: 8am - 10am write and the rest of my daily schedule. However, I think I haven't looked at it for a year.
Mine is a 1-inch by 1-inch square from Anne Lamott's <i>Bird by Bird</i> . It reminds me to only write what I can see. – Brandi Kleinert Larsen brandilarsen@gmail.com Chicago
Which one? I have pictures my kids have drawn to make me smile when writing is driving me crazy, I have phrases for future inspiration, quotations to keep me motivated, agents and publisher names, and facts or information I have been researching for current piece. My desk is a chaotic mess but there is method to the madness.
I have a cut-out of a little white whale with red eyes made from notebook paper that my friend John gave me. I also have drawn-up roadmaps of a fictional neighborhood I've created, and printouts of maps of Venezuela and Ecuador, as well as the Pan-American highway.-Tim Geaghan Brooklyn, NY
'Lunch in the fridge. Bag on the bar.' – a reminder
Currently.... 'The earth is moved from its position by the weight of a small bird alighting upon it. The surface of the sea is moved by a small drop of water falling on it.' – Leonardo da Vinci
'We have the writer's own vision of everything in the world when we place her novel in the center. Then so much is clear; how she sees life and death, how much he thinks people matter to each other and to themselves, how much she would like you to know about what she finds beautiful or strange or awful or absurd, what she can do without, how well she has learned to see, hear, touch, smell.' – Eudora Welty's <i>On Writing</i>
we are not here to save the world, but to love and serve and by that love and service the world may or may not be saved
'The only thing that stands between a person and what they want in life is the will to try it and the faith to believe it

is possible.’ – Rich Devos
I am intelligent, talented and creative, so what the heck did I write today?
We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time. – T. S. Elliot
I’ve taped up two little collages a friend of mine made me for my birthday. One says ‘space’ and the other says ‘air. scene.’ I also have a quote from Walt Whitman which is long and breathless and beautiful, and begins, ‘This is what you shall do.’
‘A man must love a thing very much if he not only practices it without any hope of fame and money, but even practices it without any hope of doing it well.’ – G.K. Chesterton
Apart from a sheaf of rejection slips, I have a postcard that says ‘THEATER IS EMBARRASSING.’ Not far from it is a Nietzsche quotation my sister gave me years ago: ‘Without music life would be a mistake.’ (I write a lot of music and stage material in addition to fiction.)
List of Things To Do March 21, 2007
I have three (always the overachiever!) 1. You’re only willing to succeed to the same degree you’re willing to fail. 2. I am building a stairway to the stars. I have the authority to take the whole of mankind up there with me. That is why I write. - Bessie Head 3. Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead. - Gene Fowler
writers write
‘If you’re a writer, you have to write what you think. Otherwise you’re a liar and a hypocrite.’ Noel Coward, <i>Design for Living</i>
I have a quote from Stephen King, that says: If you don’t have the time to read, you don’t have time or the tools to write.
‘So long as you write what you wish to write, that is what matters; and whether it matters for ages or only for hours nobody can say. But to sacrifice a hair on the head of your vision, a shade of its colour, in deference to some Headmaster with a silver pot in his hand or to some professor with a measuring rod up his sleeve, is the most abject treachery, and the sacrifice of wealth and chastity which used to be said to be the greatest of human disasters, a mere flea-bite in comparison.’ – Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i> , p. 123
Don't quit!
‘Sometimes it is necessary to reteach a thing its loveliness.’ Galway Kinnell, Poet Sharon K. Garner sharonbooks@penn.com James Creek, PA
(Prompting words to help in forming a precise two-or-three word description of a certain stretch of water on a cloudy day.) moody, dull, translucent, dazzling dullness, eggshell, glistening, flat, irascible, smouldering, black light, smoked-glass, anger.
Dear Sisters-- I have many little pieces of paper tacked on the wall above my writing desk. The first four have little to do with writing, but who knows how they might sneak in to any story or poem. 1. Review copies to The Village Voice, Parnassus, Georgia Review, Three Penny Rev, Gettysburgh Rev. 2. Who wrote down the Torah? How were pieces added after it was first written down? Who canonized it and how were texts selected from various versions? 3. Boursin pepper cheese, cabat sharp cheddar, B&M baked beans, Herman’s Kosher dills, Raos tomato basil pasta sauce, Dietz & Watson bacon. 4. Short-wave radio, New Yorker--80 yrs on disk, transparent birdcage umbrella, ‘Into White,’ Carly Simon. 5. Write a story in which God comes first to Sarah, and SHE prepares Abraham to hear God's summons (pillow talk). Draw this out to be a domestic comedy. End with A hearing God's call and preparing his tribe to set forth, while S pretends to resist. Or end with the binding of Isaac; when A sneaks off with Isaac at crack of dawn, S pretends to be asleep, but God has already told her that he intends to send a ram.
‘Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.’ -teddy roosevelt (also a picture of brian wilson at his piano.) -dan b., chicago
Virtual reality
It’s the screen saver on my computer. It says scribble, scribble scribble, scribble. Every time I walk into the room, scribble is crawling across the screen to remind me to write, write write...
It is a poem Jonathan Winters’s daughter gave him on his 60th birthday: I can picture you fifty years ago and more \ playing alone creating invisible friends speaking their dialogues acting each role. I’m a lot like you. I played alone with fantasy characters, questioned my vivid imagination, but you taught me not to be afraid to be alone or unusual. You taught me to be proud to be strange.

I have notes tacked everywhere-- quotes from famous authors (living and deceased), reminders, useful suggestions, inspirational passages.
HAVE A GREAT DAY!!! WRITE, WRITE, WRITE!!!
No more things should be presumed to exist than are absolutely necessary. – Occam's Razor
Mine is a quote from Henry David Thoreau: ‘Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.’ It helps me to stay focused on the path I want to follow. Betty Houle Bristol, CT
Shitty First Drafts are OK
I have two quotations tacked up which offer me a perspective and balance. One is optimistic, one represents a darker reality. Behind each one, there are countless stories and possibilities. ‘I really believe that success is getting up one more time than you fall.’ ‘One must cling to whatever remnants of love, friendship, or hope above and beyond reason that one has, for the enemy is all around ready to snatch it.’
One word at a time, just write something!
- legislative reports on Saturdays [in the local paper] - novelty camera
Be confrontational, be original, go deep!
Breathe in, breathe out, move on. :-)
I have a large piece of paper tacked up; it is a map of my fictional city for my book. I find it easier sometimes to keep the realism straight if I can see where it is my characters are going and how it relates to the other places they've been.
I have a quote by Langston Hughes tacked up on my desk. It says: Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die, Life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly. Valerie Oviatt, valinala@aol.com, Montgomery, AL.
I do. A quote from a letter from seventh grade English teacher who, 28 years later, is still a friend. It says, ‘Keeping your courage up: I think that's what every writer struggles with. There was Virginia Woolf, half convinced that Mrs. Dalloway was crap. It's so easy/tempting to devalue what we create. That's why you need a reader. It's good. You can believe me.’ Also an Annie Dillard quote: ‘Why do you never find anything written about that idiosyncratic thought you advert to, about your fascination with something no one else understands? Because it is up to you. There is something you find interesting, for a reason hard to explain. It is hard to explain because you have never read it on any page; there you begin. You were made and set here to give voice to this, your own astonishment.’ Sara Levine
‘Don't get it right, get it written.’ – James Thurber
The Optimist Club's Credo: I Promise: To be strong so that nothing can disturb my peace of mind. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person I meet. To make all my friends feel that there is something in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make my optimism come true. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as I am about my own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature I meet a smile. To give so much time to self-improvement I have no time to criticize others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. By Christian Larson
Do one thing.
I don't have a paper. I have a little one-inch shovel with a ribbon running through the handle tied around my lamp which sits on my writing desk. When I get stuck, that shovel reminds me to keep digging.
Ekistics
I don't. I keep everything in my head or in a binder. – Dustin M. Weber of Crystal Lake, IL
ADVICE: In every scene, touch someone. (Maureen Stapleton to Michael J. Fox) Success changes nothing inside. (Rosie O'Donnell) If you only do it twice a week, you might as well quit. (Jay Leno's advice to aspiring comics) Be honest. Play the character straight and let the audience decide if he's a bad guy or a good guy. No one thinks of himself as a bad guy. (Jimmy Cagney) Don't think. First draft is for YOU; don't share it. Work, Relax, Don't think. (Ray Bradbury) Write fast to let it flow out. Don't search for good ideas; learn to recognize them. (Ray Bradbury) Write a first draft like you're telling yourself what happened. Write it for YOU. Mary Owens Crab Orchard, KY
I'm OK, you're OK, let's get to work.
I have a whole bunch of pieces of paper by my desk (five at this very moment!)... chunks of dialogue, single words to remind me of something, notes for the next story, quotes. I have a scattered brain and I'm constantly thinking, so if I don't take quick notes I end up forgetting half of what passes through my head.
‘Good Christian fiction rises up from a deep reservoir of spiritual reality within the human soul.’ - Penelope J.

Stokes in <i>Writing and Selling the Christian Novel</i>
Short Assignments. Shitty first drafts.
‘The truth is that you can spend your life any way you want, but you can spend it only once.’
Angie Ledbetter, Baton Rouge, LA ‘BIC,FOK’ (Butt in Chair, Fingers on Keyboard)
It changes, but just now I have my own synopsis of the chapter points in <i>Burning Down the House</i> by Charles Baxter, and a note to myself about what some of my characters might do.
Keep going
It is a magnetic shopping list on which I’ve crossed out the word ‘Shopping’ and replaced it with ‘Writing’. I list the date, start and end time and total time I spent writing each time I sit down to do so. It helps me keep track of how much (or little) time I carve out for writing, and it motivates me to add another chunk, or to add a longer length of time to the list. Crecia Swaim crecialee@hotmail.com Naugatuck CT
move arrow to ‘edit’ move arrow to ‘select all’ image will go negative change margins insert page number double click page #
‘The artist is essentially the instrument, and he stands below his work, for which reason we should never expect from him an interpretation of his own work. He achieved his highest with his composition.’ – Carl G. Jung ‘To reveal art and conceal the artist is art’s aim.’ – Oscar Wilde
‘Write as well as you can and finish what you start.’ – Ernest Hemingway
KEEP WRITING in bold red letters over a photo of a Ford Shelby Mustang GT!!
I have dozens of little pieces of paper strewn about my writing area: story titles, names of characters I’ve invented, keywords to trigger plot ideas. Thoughts come to me while I’m at my job: profound, comical, or just plain twisted. As a mail processor, I’m often inspired by the ads that pass through my hands, or by something a co-worker says to me – often an expression in broken English that I never could have come up with on my own. First opportunity I have, I grab a piece of scrap paper out of the trash, jot a few words on it, and stick it in my back pocket. But I have to act quickly, because ideas can vanish suddenly and without a trace. When I get home, I empty these scraps onto my desk, where they remain until I transcribe the contents into my notebook, or incorporate them into whatever project I’m working on at the time. Usually, I toss them out once I’ve used them. But I almost always keep a few around for company. Ted Gargiulo Jr. Seaside, CA playdad@tedsway.com
I have a ceramic Halloween skull holding my pencils that has taped fortunes, from fortune cookies, on it. The fortune that faces my desk reads, ‘You have the attitude of a winner.’
I don’t have one unless it’s a specific reminder to finish something I might forget.
My name is Rebecca Fraser-Thill. rfrasert@maine.rr.com, Windham, Maine. I don’t have it right in front of me at the moment (I’m on lunch break at my office) so I apologize for paraphrasing. It is a quote from Ann Patchett that was in <i>Writers Ask</i> , I believe, where she said that a person wouldn’t blow their first piece of glass and expect to sell it to Tiffany’s, and that writing should be the same way. We need to write and discard and write and discard because writing is about the practice and about the joy of the process.
I have tons of them (ideas to remember, famous quotes) and postcards surrounding me to take me to different places in case I need inspiration.
I have a drawing of an elf in an old tree trunk. He’s writing a story with a quill.
Arrange the pieces you are given. (Virginia Woolf) SECURITY DEVICE ENCLOSED (from some computer gizmo) A drawing by my son of caterpillars. My name is Christine Terp Madsen. I live in Olympia, WA. chris@cloudyrain.com
Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you tolerance, self-control, diligence, strength of will, contentment, and a hundred other virtues the idle will never know. – Carol J. Rhodes; cjrhodes@houston.rr.com; Houston TX
Life is a garden. Dig it.
My workplace is slathered in little pieces of paper. Most are quotes from other writers (James Galvin, Susanna Clarke) about how they work or what the animating impulse for their writing is. I also have reminders to myself about important character facts in the novel I’m writing. I also have photocopies of a few of David Hockney’s collage photographs, because that’s how my novel feels to me--a collage of minutely-detailed moments imperfectly strung together. Hockney’s portraits remind me that there can be movement in that imperfection.
Ichigo Ichi

From Anne Lamott, it says: Laughter is carbonated holiness.
Honestly, I have many pieces of paper near my desk, on my desk. Sometimes I will put small reminders on my monitor. It could be something to do. At the moment mine's telling me I should be filling out the fafsa.
It's a photo of the author who volunteered to read my manuscript, once complete.
A quotation (the source of which I'm sorry to say I don't know): 'One of the great temptations of human existence is to base your life on contingency; that you will actually take the courageous step once all the conditions are absolutely right for you.'
Mine is a license plate from 'Scenic' Idaho 23 MC995. Also, a speeding ticket from Illinois and a post card from Rio.
1. No Drugs or Nuclear Weapons Allowed Inside 2. YOU SHOULD BE WORKING
The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself. – Anna Quindlen. Judith Behar, Greensboro, NC
'...honor the mystery that we encounter in the act of writing. This is a place where poetry and prayer meet. It takes faith to write the words you know are true, words you are certain that you mean, even when you have to admit that you do not know exactly what they mean, let alone whether they are literally true.' – Kathleen Norris, <i>Amazing Grace</i> p. 377.'
I'm afraid I don't have one, but if I had one, it would say, 'WRITE!!!'
I have a cheat sheet reminding me of a few points when I'm doing rewrites: line edit (grammar, echoes, adverbs, stagnant verbs); read aloud for story flow; tighten; purple prose; show (texture, senses, emotion); story question: does the plot more forward?
Avoid 'as being' and 'seemed.'
'A person with a determined heart frightens problems away.' It's a fortune cookie receipt. Alethea Black alethea_black@businessweek.com
I have hundreds of pieces of paper. And if I told you what they said, I would be giving my novel away.
'Writing involves the imposition of a line of words on a line of feeling.' – the poet John Hall Wheelock
Thomas Merton's interest besides writing: birds, beer, Bob Dylan and subversive nuns.
'He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything.' – Samuel Johnson
'Start writing – the answer will come to you.' – fortune cookie
Name of publisher I'm aiming for with current work
I have 8 on the filing cabinet next to my desk, which are quotes I like to glance at from time to time. The latest is from a recent article in <i>The New Yorker</i> by Orhan Pamuk: A writer 'must have the artistry to tell his own stories as if they were other people's stories, and to tell other people's stories as if they were his own.'
'How hard is it to make stuff up?' she said. 'Not hard at all. The trick is knowing when to stop before you get confused.'
would a picture of Beethoven count?
1) I hope for nothing. I fear nothing. I am free. 2) 'Each day I go into my studio, and there's this guy, Rauschenberg, and I sort of help him along.' -Robert Rauschenberg
Be an expert in suffering.
'You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.' Henry Ford
STOP WRITING AND DO OUR TAXES! I didn't post it there. Robb Grindstaff, Arlington, VA
I don't have that, but in my rough writing file (which I call 'Oak and Pine'), I've placed the words 'bless you' at the beginning of the document so those are the first words I see when I open it up.
Editors cost money!
I usually have dozens of little pieces of paper. On them are written a phrase or bit of dialogue I jotted down somewhere (often at work) and then brought home because I thought it would be a help for my story. Usually, after enough of them have accumulated, I go through them, write some of them down in a notebook, dispose of the majority of them (the 'stinkers' – the third-grade-reading-level inanities disguised as something good) and think about them, and see if I can't incorporate them. Some of them are very wacky, some very banal: A one-armed chatterbox barber named Bernard. A billboard reads: 'We're All in This Together.' 'I really want to help you explain to me what we're talking about, Jacob.' 'Your tie's showing on your collar line.' 'What?' 'Your tie's showing on your collar line.' '----' 'I just thought you'd...'
It is the printed-out schedule of when the upcoming year's monthly royalty statements for my novel <i>Stray Not</i>

<i>Beyond</i> will be posted on the publisher's website.
To hell with the expense – give the canary another seed.
'Vulnerabilities are what make a character interesting!'
'Awhile' is an adverb and is never preceded by a preposition. 'A while' follows a preposition. 'So' implies cause and effect and requires a comma.
PRAY
I don't have a writing desk per se, but I do have a thought tacked up in my brain that I associate with the act of writing (and trying to publish what I write!): A quote from William Gaddis's novel <i>Carpenter's Gothic</i> – 'One last ridiculous effort.'
Memento Mori and Illegitimi non carborundum
Kitty Carlisle Hart at 95: Hart says that about nine years ago, she decided that she had no time to devote to being irritable or unhappy. 'Time is moving fast,' she says.
'We have done so much for so long with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.'
I actually have a dry erase board where I outline the next few scenes I'm going to write and jot down any names or ideas that might be useful at some point in the future.
What is this piece about?
a quote from Harry Crews. 'all fiction is about people trying to do the best they can in a given situation.' something like that. I'm not in front of my writing computer
Success is a journey – not a destination. Pam Thompson Rogers, AR