

Publishing Panel - February 2008
Springfield City Library, Central Branch

Participants in the panel were:

Tom Clark / Florence Poets Society <http://www.florencepoetsociety.org/>

Barbara Gowen, author of *Blending In*

Jim Kates / Zephyr Press

Pamela Tyree Griffin of the *Shine Online Journal* was unable to attend, due to being called away to the west coast for work. However, she invites people to submit their work to Shine <http://theshinejournal.com/>

Summary of the main points that were discussed:

BEFORE submitting your work for publication:

- Edit your work continuously and get it as perfect as it can be
- Get feedback from as many people as possible
- Participate in workshops (such as the upcoming meeting with Pamela's group - there is also the writers group that meets here at the Central Library every first and third Saturdays. Many other workshop opportunities show up on Lori Desrosiers' Poetry News as well <http://www.poetrynewscalendar.com/>)
- Consider paying a copy editor!

Get your work "out there" and recognized

- Enter contests (like the Springfield Poetry Contest, submissions due March 15... and the Florence Poets Society Contest... entires due April 15 <http://www.florencepoetsociety.org/>>
- Self-publish chapbooks - sell them for cheap, trade with other writers, hand them out like business cards, get them into libraries (*Florence Poets Society offers support in producing chapbooks and getting them added to local libraries)
Submit your work to different types of publications - journals, anthologies, local publications, websites
- Consider writing reviews of others' work as a way to get your name and your ideas "in print"

Do your part in supporting other writers by purchasing their work.

Explore the publishing market

- Do your homework - find publishers that appear to be TRULY interested in the type of writing you do.
- When submitting your work, include a letter explaining why you are a good match for them, and show them that you've read their other writers.
- Check out Poets + Writers magazine - see back for "calls" for poems for anthologies.
- Check out <http://www.duotrope.com/> to explore the market and even track your submissions.
- Browse through directories of publishers such as Poets Market (available at the Library)
- Publishers offer a wide variety of "deals" be sure to compare and contrast and understand exactly what you are getting yourself into. Realize that some publishers will not actively market your book after publication.
- Consider "self-publishing" with a firm such as lulu.com - this will get you an officially published book with an ISBN, that you can sell on amazon.com, etc. It may be more affordable than you think, especially if you already have a market for your work.

Here are some other suggested websites with loads of publishing advice:

Writing-World.com

Click on "Publishing Your Book" for a collection of thorough articles by writers and editors. Also, be sure to check out their LINKS to websites on many other topics, including self-publishing and e-publishing.

Dan Poynter's ParaPublishing <www.parapublishing.com>

Content-rich site from veteran publisher, speaker, and parachuter Dan Poynter. Includes articles on many aspects of planning, producing, and marketing your book.

Poetry Portal <www.poetry-portal.com>

This is a very comprehensive and informative collection of links about poetry online, events, competitions, styles, and publishing.

Poetry Magic <www.poetrymagic.co.uk>

A British site addressing the interests of poetry fans or students as well as writers and teachers. Includes an entire category of essays about publishing.

And of course, there are many books at the library about all aspects of publishing. Come in any time and ask a librarian to show you some books!