

Learn to self-publish at DLI class



By Jeff Anderson | Special to The Times | Saturday March 17, 2018

After submitting her story about a mischievous little rabbit to countless publishers, Beatrix Potter finally got tired of receiving one rejection letter after another. She decided to take her destiny into her own hands. She printed 25 copies and began handing the books out to friends, and that's how Peter Rabbit was introduced to the world.

Perhaps you have a story to tell and experiences to share. There are things you have learned on this journey through life that your friends, family, children, grandchildren and others could benefit from. Yet you ask: How can I transmit my stories and experiences to the next generation?

Why not do what Beatrix did and become a self-published author?

Books can travel places you'll never go, tell your story to people you'll never meet and influence lives long after you are gone.



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And now, thanks to the application of new technologies in publishing, you can write, publish and list your book on the world's largest bookselling platform, **Amazon.com**, all with little capital outlay. That's right. You don't have to send \$10,000 to a vanity press only to end up with 5,000 copies of your book stacked in a dark corner of your garage. You don't have to toil for hours over your manuscript then hope some fickle publishing house will deem your work "worthy."

At 6 p.m. March 27, Rick Malm will return to the Dynamic Learning Institute to teach people how to "Self-Publish Your Book Now." Malm recently released his fourth book on Amazon and will show you how you, too, can get your book printed and listed on Amazon and make it available in the Kindle digital format.

In January, Malm delivered — to rave reviews — a DLI class called "Write Your Book Now." His next class will help students learn what to do once they are ready to publish their work. If you desire to learn how to get your story printed and share your experiences with others, you will want to attend this session.

If you have a manuscript prepared or in process, bring it along. Additionally if you have a laptop that will connect to the internet, bring it along as well. DLI will provide you with internet access and you will be able to walk through the online process with Malm. Manuscripts and laptops are not required, but if you have them available, they should prove valuable to your class experience.

The DLI class host will be DLI Vice Chairwoman Kathleen Maxwell-Rambie. The cost to attend the 6-7:30 p.m. class is \$20 per person. To register, call 792-4044 Mondays through Fridays or visit www.clubed.net.

Malm said he hopes “to inspire students to take the time now to record their story so they can be preserved and passed on to others who could benefit from their experiences.

As we journey through life, we can't help but learn unique lessons that deserve to be passed on to family, friends, children, grandchildren and others. What better way to give forward than by publishing our experiences, lessons learned and thoughts in the enduring form of a book.”

Years ago, Malm published his first book through a traditional publishing house. While the book was successful and went into a second printing, the process was tedious.

“Many authors forfeit rights to their book and even need the publisher's permission to translate the book into other languages – which happened with my first book,” he explained. “I've had other books I wanted to write but they appealed to niche markets too small for a traditional publisher to accept. I've had friends who used vanity publishers and spent as much as \$15,000 only to end up with a storehouse full of unsold books. You don't want your book printed and sitting in boxes in your garage. You want to share it with the world.

“When I learned about the new technology of print-on-demand and how Amazon and others are making it possible for authors to get their books published and distributed

without a huge outlay of cash, it was like author's heaven. You can literally write, publish and get your book listed on Amazon.com and have a Kindle version of it prepared without spending a dime.

“After this course, you will write with confidence knowing that once your book is completed, you can be assured it will be released and made available internationally by the world's biggest book vendor, Amazon.”

What is the Dynamic Learning Institute?

DLI is a Kerrville community partnership between the Dietert Center's Club Ed, Schreiner University, SERV Kerrville and the Dynamic Learning Institute Board of Directors. Dynamic Learning aims to provide the Kerrville area with fun, interactive and stimulating learning experiences. More than 850 participants have joined DLI classes this semester to discover the joy of learning from dynamic instructors with a lifetime of subject experiences to share. There are no tests, no grades and no papers – just the opportunity to explore interesting topics and develop new interests.

Future DLI classes

- April 3, 10-11:30 a.m.: Resilience in Grief and Life's Challenges: Building your Toolbox
- April 5, 6-7:30 p.m.: Radical Islam: Why? Confronting Jihad at Home and Abroad
- April 12, 2-3:30 p.m.: Germans Come to Texas
- April 19, 6-7:30 p.m.: Hill Country Ecology – Why it Matters
- April 24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: More Than a Race of Spectators: How Folklore Matters in Everyday Life Luncheon
- April 26, 6-7:30 p.m.: The Iraq War – Lessons Learned From a Diplomat's Perspective

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DLI Chairman Jeff Anderson is servant pastor of SERV Kerrville, a nonprofit collaborating with community partners to empower lifelong learning.