

Dianne Lorang, co-editor/author of *Single Women—Alive and Well!*, was first inspired to write and collect stories about and by single women when she realized they had something she did not. Having been married over twenty years at the time, she thought the strength and happiness of her single friends and relatives came from their independence. She discovered, instead, that contentment and fulfillment come from deep within a person rather than from one's present or past circumstances.

Prior to starting The Write Help in 1996, Ms. Lorang was a Literary Assistant at Jody Rein Books. She has edited a variety of books, including *The ADDED Dimension: Everyday Advice for Adults with ADD*, by Kate Kelly, Peggy Ramundo, and D. Steven Ledingham (Scribner, 1997); *Mother of the Pound: Memoirs of the Life and History of the Iraqi Jews*, by David Kazzaz (Sepher Hermon Press, 1999); *The Practice of Wholeness*, by Lorena Monda (Golden Flower Publications, 2000); and *Saving the Bay: People Working for the Future of the Chesapeake*, by Ann E. Dorbin (a.k.a. Ann E. Byrnes) and Richard A. K. Dorbin (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).

Her Colorado clients include award-winning authors Lois Tschetter Hjelmstad (*Fine Black Lines: Reflections on Facing Cancer, Fear and Loneliness* and *The Last Violet: Mourning My Mother*) and Wilhelminia Ripple (*Halloween School Parties: What Do I Do?*[®], *Valentine School Parties: What Do I Do?*[®], *Valentine Boxes: What Do I Do?*[®], *Christmas Parties: What Do I Do?*[®], and *Slumber Parties: What Do I Do?*[®]). Lorang also edited short stories for Patricia Henley's book, *Worship of the Common Heart* (MacMurray & Beck, 2000). Henley was a 1999 National Book Award finalist for her novel *Hummingbird House* (MacMurray & Beck, 1999).

Lorang herself received an Honorable Mention—Personal Essay from The Denver Woman's Press Club in its 1994 Unknown Writers Contest. Lorang began honing her writing and editorial skills as a professional tutor at Montana State University's Writing Center, after graduating with honors in Philosophy with a minor in English Writing from MSU. She has three grown children and has lived in Littleton, Colorado for almost ten years.

Ann E. Byrnes (a.k.a. Ann E. Dorbin), co-editor/author of *Single Women—Alive and Well!*, was one of the first contributors to *Single Women – Alive and Well!* with her story, "Seventh Inning Stretch," about learning how to cope in a college chemistry class at the age of thirty-eight. She and editor Dianne Lorang became friends via the Internet and have been able to visit in person on occasion.

They worked closely together on Ms. Byrnes' book, *Saving the Bay: People Working for the Future of the Chesapeake* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001). "This is a book about hope, rather than despair," says Andrew R. McCown, Echo Hill Outdoor School. "Yes, humans create tremendous problems, but we also have the capability to solve them."

Byrnes' present partner in business and life, Richard A. K. Dorbin, created the photography for *Saving the Bay: People Working for the Future of the Chesapeake*. They live on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Byrnes' hobbies include swimming, bike riding, gardening, and listening to folk music. Before joining the ranks of non-traditional students, she worked extensively in the construction and finance industries.

Having written for business and pleasure most of her life, including essays, short stories, children's stories, and poetry, Byrnes has won several writing awards and been published in many local and university periodicals. Along with her own publishing success, she pens book proposals for other authors and designs web-sites.

She earned her B.S. in Behavioral and Social Sciences with a minor in Communications from the University of Maryland University College in 2002, all while continuing to work, write, and raise two young children, mostly on her own. Two more of Byrnes' stories—"Mirrorstones" and "Welcome the Seasons"—appear in *Single Women – Alive and Well!*