

Passion for writing

Local author has three published novels and an upcoming book of poetry

By Diana Kuyper
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SUN

Greg Rosenquist is a graphic artist who works full-time for a media company and has a home graphic arts business, but those two jobs only serve to support his love of writing books.

The Lindenhurst resident started writing in grade school and hasn't stopped. His dedication to writing has produced three published books, an upcoming book of poetry and countless short stories and poems that are still waiting revision and publication.

"I sleep about five hours a night. I've never needed more than that. My mom figured I'd outgrow that by now, but I am a late night writer. I usually write from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.," he said, explaining that he outlines every story first in longhand, and then he sits at the computer and writes. "I write every night. I also write on the weekends during the day and then take a nap."

When he was in high school he would brew himself a cup of tea, tell his mother he was going to bed, but then sneak down to the basement and write until 2 a.m.

Today, it is his wife, Katrinka, who witnesses his late night activities. The two married in June, moving to Lindenhurst so that her son, Ryan, could attend school in the Millburn School District. Rosenquist has a 20-year-old son, Josh, studying architecture at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Katrinka is a medical assistant in Vernon Hills. "She is very supportive of what I do, but we are completely different people. She is emotional, I am calm," he said.

"She reads everything I do. She will change the grammar and correct minor mistakes, but she also will tell me if she doesn't like the plot, or she sees an error. She is detail oriented and that is so helpful to me."

He also likes it that she thinks he is the greatest writer since Faulkner, he says.

"Up until this year I lived in Round Lake," said the 38-year-old Chicago native. "I love it in Lindenhurst. We live in a quaint cul-de-sac neighborhood, and it is very peaceful. It's a great place to write."



DAVID KRUEGER / SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SUN
Author G.C. Rosenquist (right) of Lindenhurst talks to Mike Stock of Round Lake Beach during the author's book signing at This Old Book Store in Grayslake earlier this month.



DAVID KRUEGER / SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SUN
Author G.C. Rosenquist signs a copy of his new book *Evermore* at This Old Book Store.

A writer who has been submitting his work for publication for decades, Rosenquist has a file of rejection letters several inches thick. His perseverance has paid off because today Rosenquist has three books available from major booksellers, including Barnes and Noble, Borders and Amazon.

The Opening and Closing of the Moon was his first book, self-published but now available through major booksellers. "It's a sad book. I've been told it's chick lit, but the book got my name out there," he said. "I was noticed and it helped me to get my second book published by a real publisher."

Rosenquist describes the book as a narration of 10 years in the life of a single person. "Daniel is the main character and the story opens with the revelation that he is completely in love with this beautiful red-headed girl, Sydney, who plays the violin at the university they both attend. His love for her is almost an obsession but I turn the tables and the reader discovers that she likes him too."

The book involves tragedy and death, "but the book will touch your heart and soul," said Rosenquist.

The Funnel Flyer, about a man who falls out of a tornado, has proved to be his most successful book to date, selling about 500 copies. It is also his personal favorite. "At 135 pages it is a short, tight little book. I am very proud of it. I think it is one of my best works, and it came out the way I wanted it to," said Rosenquist.

His third published book is titled *Evermore*, released in July by Whiskey Creek Press. The book is a ghost story that is set in 1855.

He will follow up with his first book of published poetry to be released next fall by Purple Sky Publishing.

All of his books are available from This Old Book in Grayslake, where he had a book signing earlier this month. Rosenquist, who writes under the pen name G.C. Rosenquist, also has his own Web site, www.gcrosenquist.com that describes his published work. The Web site was designed by his brother Steve, who lives in Antioch.

Rosenquist started writing in fifth grade. "I wrote a little newspaper called The Blue News. I would write it on blue construction paper and bind it with yarn. All stories in it had a theme of blue. I made several copies and then distributed it to my class. It got to the point where they began asking me when I was going to do another issue, so altogether I did six or seven issues. I don't even know where the idea came from."

Rosenquist says his family isn't creative, so he doesn't know where his love of writing comes from. "As I kid I got into Marvel Comics, and did super hero themed stories. In high school I started working on my own original material. I still am working on a story that I started in high school, called The Yuletide Spirit. I am on the eighth revision."

It was also in high school that he wrote his first novel that he would like to see published. "It's only about 30,000 words so I am trying to flesh it out. It takes place in 1939 in a sleepy Maine town and an angel comes down and tries to change everything. I really like the story, so I am trying to lengthen it for publication."

Although he writes poetry and has taken poetry classes at the College of Lake County, he enjoys writing fiction more than anything else. "I love getting into the characters of my books."

"I stick to my outline. I can't write without it. I have to know what is going to happen to my characters. A lot of writers may say using an outline is like paint by numbers, but that is irresponsible. I have to control the story," he said.

Rosenquist says the bottom line is that he writes because he has to. "It doesn't matter what time of the day it is. There is always a story going around in my head. I have a good imagination. The characters are important. I use a lot of metaphors. I like to show how people have changed by the end of the book," he said. "For me it is all about the ride."

That doesn't mean that he doesn't also enjoy the financial rewards. His dream for the future is to support his family by writing. "I don't want necessarily to have a best seller, although I would not mind that at all."

He will continue to write, hoping for a big enough advance payment on his next book so that he can devote himself full-time to writing. "I am working on a detective story set in the future, when the United States turns 300. I am also working on a book of science fiction short stories."

"I just want to do what I love. It is my bliss."

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