



November 2013

"NaGirWriMo"

(National Giraffe Writing Month)

We're writing again, taking our cue from the popular NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) phenomenon! Why?

1. I promised you last April that you would have a chance to revisit some your writings from that month.
2. We should also start thinking about the written portion that you will contribute to the Year of the Giraffe 'zine! (Part of your fee for this online class was that you will receive a 'zine that I will put together about the experience. And I want you involved, both your writing and your visual work!)
3. And there's nothing wrong with a little more creative "cross-training," right?

What is NaNoWriMo?

From their website (www.nanowrimo.org):

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing. On November 1, participants begin working towards the goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by 11:59 p.m. on November 30. Valuing enthusiasm, determination, and a deadline, NaNoWriMo is for anyone who has ever thought fleetingly about writing a novel.



The image is a screenshot of the NaNoWriMo website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a logo on the left and a "Sign In" button on the right. The logo is a shield with a blue and white design. The main heading is "National Novel Writing Month" in a large, bold, brown font. Below this is a blue banner with the text "November 1-30 • The world needs your novel." Underneath the banner is a dark brown navigation bar with links for "My NaNoWriMo", "Writer Goods", "Forums", "Local Events", "Store", and "Donate". The main content area has a large heading "Ready to Write a Novel?" followed by the text "You've come to the right place." Below this is a blue "Sign Up!" button. To the right of the button is a graphic for "NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH NOVEMBER" with a "PRESS START" button and a copyright notice "© 2013". Below the sign-up button are four bullet points with icons: "Write a novel in a month!", "Track your progress.", "Get pep talks and support.", and "Meet fellow writers online and in person." At the bottom of the page is a yellow banner with the text "2013 Novelists" and a large number "211,526" displayed in individual grey boxes.

Sounds fun, right?

Do I really need to write 50,000 words?

No, we are “NaGirWriMo,” which is *completely* different. :D

You can choose to sign up and join the fun at the NaNoWriMo site, or you can make your own giraffe rules. But use this month to work on and finish up your children’s book or short story, your cartoon strip, or an essay that you might want used for the writing portion of your contribution to Giraffe ‘zine.

Carla, are you going to do this?

Yes! I’ve already signed up at nanowrimo.org and plan to write 50,000 words. I don’t know if there will be more than one reference to a giraffe, but I’m really looking forward to the creative cross-training!

Won’t you join me?

*“Working alone to create stories, despite serious inconveniences,
is not a bad way to live our human loneliness.”*

— Bernard Malamud