



## **Our Next KWA Meeting**

**January 15**

**Rockwell Public Library  
5939 E. 9th, Wichita**

**Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop: 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Program: Hazel Hart  
“Writing Goals for 2005”**

Are you looking back over 2004 with the satisfaction of having met the writing goals you set for yourself last January? If you are, what steps did you take to accomplish those goals?

Or do you wonder how the year passed with so little accomplished? What obstacles kept you from achieving your goals and how will you overcome those obstacles in 2005?

Come to the January pre-meeting mini-workshop and share your triumphs, trials, and plans for the future.

**Social Time: 3:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting: 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Program: Panel Discussion  
“Research”**

Mathew Curry — Sharon Jesik — Louise Pelzel  
Come find out how these three writers research their works. Bring your questions and discover new approaches to this important aspect of your writing.

Business Meeting: Elections for 2005 Board of Directors

## **New & Renewing Members**

### **New**

Ralph Allen	Janet Kimbrell
C. E. Holden	Julia Kraus
Rose James	Leisha Wharfield

### **Renewals**

Patrice Hutton	Diana Kitch
James P. Johnston	

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Jan. 5 & 19**—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

**Jan. 5**—First Saturday Group, 1 to 4 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**Jan. 7 & 21**—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**Jan. 15**—KWA Pre-meeting Mini-Workshop, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Social time, 3:00-3:30 p.m. Regular meeting, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Rockwell Public Library.

**Jan. 20**—Newsletter deadline for February.

**Jan. 20**—KWA Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

**Jan. 25 start**—Gordon Kessler’s “Novel Writing Made Simple” course at Hutchison Community College, McPherson Campus.

**Jan. 29**—Gordon Kessler’s “Novel Writing Made Simple” one day workshop at Butler County Community College, Andover.

# Market Place

## Market News

**Carly Phillips**, NYT best-seller, sold three new hardcovers to HQN in a major seven figure deal.

**J. K. Rowling's** sixth book in the Harry Potter series is more than six months from publication. Advanced sells on Amazon have propelled the book already to number one on its list of 100 best-sellers. The fifth book in the series had advance orders of 4,200,000.

**Red Sage Publishing** is seeking novella submissions of 20,000-35,000 words for an erotica anthology. They are looking for something sensuous, bold, spicy, untamed, hot, and sometimes politically incorrect. Details at [www.redsagepub.com/authors.html](http://www.redsagepub.com/authors.html).

**Atlantic Bridge Publishing** is a full service, royalty paying epublisher that pays authors 45% of retail of all download sales. They will edit manuscripts, provide cover art, and assign an ISBN number to your work. Guidelines at [www.atlanticbridge.net/publishing/contracts/guidelines.htm](http://www.atlanticbridge.net/publishing/contracts/guidelines.htm).

**New Age Dimensions** is a royalty paying publisher of eBooks and trade paperbacks. They publish short category length fiction (35,000-49,000 words), long category fiction (50,000-89,000 words), anthologies (totalling 90,000-100,000 words), collections of short stories (50,000-80,000 words), short themed stories (24,000 words), kid's picture books (up to 1,500 words), children's books, and young adult books. Details at [www.newagedimensionspublishing.com/submissionguidelines.htm](http://www.newagedimensionspublishing.com/submissionguidelines.htm).

## Contests

**ByLine Magazine Contests.** For more information on all of their contests, see [www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

**Personal Essay** Deadline: Jan. 15. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Essay on any topic, written in first person and drawing on personal experience to make a point. Limit 1,200 words.

**Children's Story or Picture Book** Deadline: Jan. 25. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Short story or picture book for kids from 2-12, state targeted age group on ms: Pre-school; 5 to 8; or 9 to 12.

**Haiku** Deadline: Jan. 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Traditional or derivative forms.

**Short Story** Deadline: Feb. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$40 second, \$25 third. Submission: General fiction up to 5,000 words.

**Pen & Page Writing Contest** Deadline: Jan. 10. Entry Fee: \$15. Prizes: \$200 first; \$100 each for 3 runners up. All winners and finalists will be published in the upcoming issue, receive a list of suggestions and feedback. Submission: Short story (3,000 word max.), poetry (50 lines max.), article/essay (1,000 words max.), and play scripts (3,000 words max.). Details at [www.penandpagemag.com/contest.html](http://www.penandpagemag.com/contest.html).

**Onomatopoeia Poetry Contest** Deadline: Jan. 15, 2005. Entry Fee: \$5 per poem, with \$2.50 of every entry going into a prize fund to be divided as follows—1st-40%, 2nd-30%, 3rd-10%, 4th-10%, 5th-10%. All prizes will be in the form of a Wal-mart or K-Mart gift card. Submission: Poems up to two pages or 60 lines, any style

or theme. See details at their website: [http://www.geocities.com/onomatopoeia\\_ks](http://www.geocities.com/onomatopoeia_ks). Poems and entry fee must be accompanied by the application blank contained at their website. Entries go to: Onomatopoeia, 1222 Bluemont #2, Manhattan, KS 66502.

## Reading Writers Contest

Deadline: Jan. 31. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$100 grand prize. All entries receive three opinions. Winning entry will be published on the website March-April 2005. Submission: First chapter, any genre, any length. Details at [www.readingwriters.com/contest.htm](http://www.readingwriters.com/contest.htm).

## Conferences

### Houston Festival of Books

Dates: April 23-24  
Location: George R. Brown Convention Center  
What: A gathering of authors, publishers, bookstores, literacy non-profits, and businesses interested in literacy and literature. Pre-festival author party, prize and raffle give-aways, and programs that will highlight specific concerns about the publishing industry.  
Showcase Genre for 2005: Children's Books; featuring 200-250 authors and publishers.  
Details at [www.houstonfestivalofbooks.org](http://www.houstonfestivalofbooks.org).

### Romantic Times 22nd Annual Booklovers Convention

Dates: April 27-May 1  
Location: St. Louis, Missouri  
What: A gathering of readers and writers of popular fiction in all the romance genres, with seminars, parties, lunches, and a book fair.  
Fees: \$439 (writers/readers/bookellers); \$300 (vendor)  
Details at [www.rtconvention.com](http://www.rtconvention.com).

## 2004 Prose and Poetry Competition Winners Supplement

### YOUNG WRITERS PROSE

1st Place	Julia Kraus	The Question
2nd Place	Jungju David Yu	The New Initiation
3rd Place	Jungju David Yu	My Reborn Sister
1st Honorable Mention	Pete Holeman	Kung Fu Kin
2nd Honorable Mention	Melanie Kammerer	The First Melaniemas
3rd Honorable Mention	Shannon Coates	As Told By Tommy

### THE VINA MARIE HATT PRIZE FOR YOUTH POETRY

1st Place	Rose James	Conflict
2nd Place	Dana Schmidt	Thermometer Juice
3rd Place	Christine Vines	Directions to My Heart
Honorable Mention	Ryan Hardesty	The Gray
Honorable Mention	Michelle Monger	17: No Pyrite
Honorable Mention	Brianna Ware	Anger

### RHYMED POETRY

1st Place	Leisha Wharfield	The Weaver
2nd Place	Grace Becker	Lovesong of the Mountain to the River
3rd Place	Conrad Jestmore	The French Laundry
1st Honorable Mention	Mary Ann West	Lunch
2nd Honorable Mention	Conrad Jestmore	Ethnic Cleansing
3rd Honorable Mention	Colleen Kelly Johnston	The Convent at Dun Laoghaire

### SHORT FICTION

1st Place	Ralph Allen	Bill Weatherby's Son
2nd Place	Grace Becker	Chabela's Hope
3rd Place	Mary Ann West	Going Insane Gracefully
1st Honorable Mention	James Wright	The Calf
2nd Honorable Mention	Beth Groundwater	Global Domination
3rd Honorable Mention	James Wright	The Sharpshooter

### THE CRISER & MARDIS PRIZE IN CREATIVE NON-FICTION

1st Place	Denise Jordan	The Weigh of the Future
2nd Place	Conrad Jestmore	Kodak Black and White
3rd Place	Deborah Shouse	Remembering the Forgotten
Honorable Mention	Sue Howell	Symmetry
Honorable Mention	Patrice Hutton	Candles, Crayons and "I Voted" Stickers
Honorable Mention	Patrick M. Latta	The Kentuckians
Honorable Mention	Tonya Holmes Shook	The Importance of Blank Spaces

## 2004 Prose and Poetry Competition Winners Supplement

### SUSAN MCKNIGHT PRIZE IN FREE VERSE

1st Place	Aaron Houdyshell	Carol Ann
2nd Place	Myrne Roe	Vacations
3rd Place	Richard Atwood	(an unfinished poem)
1st Honorable Mention	Larry Maurice Schilb	Resolve
2nd Honorable Mention	Richard Atwood	M. . . .
3rd Honorable Mention	Sharon Jesik	Freeway

### THE WATERMARK PRIZE FOR FIRST PAGES OF A NOVEL

1st Place	Gordon Kessler	The Storegga Effect
2nd Place	Mathew Curry	Amber Waves of Terror
3rd Place	Starla Criser	You Promised Me Forever
1st Honorable Mention	Colleen Kelly Johnston	The Judas Goat
2nd Honorable Mention	Myrne Roe	On the Way to Womanhood in Little Creek
3rd Honorable Mention	John McConnell	Halon
4th Honorable Mention	Lila Arnold	Far Cry

### THE KWA PRIZE FOR STORIES ABOUT WICHITA

1st Place	Conrad Jestmore	Triangulating College Hill
2nd Place	Colleen Kelly Johnston	Lessons Mother Taught
3rd Place	Patrick M. Latta	Four Phantoms

### THE ERIC PEMBRY PRIZE FOR BEST OF THE FIRSTS

Julia Kraus	for her essay	The Question
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## 2004 Dale German Award Winner

Starla Criser

**Congratulations to all of the 2004 Prose and Poetry  
Competition winners**

## Awarding the Best of the Firsts

By Dr. Richard Spillman

KWA:

I surprised myself by choosing the winner from the young writer section. As always in this sort of judging, setting the standards was the hard part. How to compare a juvenile poem with a novel excerpt and the novel excerpt with a sonnet?

I came up with these criteria:

- 1) Internal integrity: The piece followed its own rules, lived within its own boundaries from beginning to end.
- 2) Vividness: My emotions were engaged; I could see and feel and perhaps hear and smell and touch.
- 3) Originality: It did something just a little differently.
- 4) Interest: I felt that I had gained something by reading it.

Your Young Writer's Prose winner met all of those criteria in my view, and met them a little better than the others did.

- 1) There is so much she could have said and didn't about the foster family experience. There is not a single ounce of fat in this essay—and yet from a simple question it fills up a great deal of emotional space.
- 2) The lists were heart-rending, but while they did engage my emotions, they did not pander to my fascination for the gruesome or pathetic.
- 3) The narrative voice begins by inviting the reader to listen in a friendly sort of way, but by the end the relationship is more contentious; the reader is placed in the position of one of those who ask questions. I liked that.
- 4) I learned from this piece and enjoyed learning.

If there is a runner up, it would be in my estimation the Adult Beginnings of a Novel entry (Ed note: Gordon Kessler's *The Storegga Effect*). This entry is a wild ride and strains my credulity more than once, but it also excites my imagination, makes me want to read on, to find out what happens next. My own limitations make it impossible for me to know how original it is, but it certainly is vivid and carries what promises to be a fairly complex plot forward without distraction.

## President's Letter

Happy New Year! 2005 is here and you probably have made several new years resolutions about your writing and have started working on them. Your resolutions/goals are important to success as a writer. They need to be doable and also make you stretch. If they're too easy there's no challenge, too hard and you'll experience failure. Bring your writing resolutions to the mini-workshop the 15th, and Hazel and other KWA members will help evaluate them.

For those who attended the awards banquet in December you know it was an exciting event. We're glad so many of the winners were able to attend along with their friends and families. Donna Jestmore and Arlene Rains Graber were the elves who made it all possible. And such organized and creative elves they were. Many thanks go to both of them for their time and effort. It was truly a celebration. I can't wait to see what's in store for us at next year's awards banquet.

It was rewarding to see Starla Criser receive the 2004 Dale German Award. Starla has done many unseen things for KWA. She prefers to stay in the background much of the time, but she is a big reason for KWA's continued success. She has made the newsletter into something professional and educational, a publication for which we can all be proud. And she's done other things for the organization that few people know about. Congratulations Starla, for a well deserved award.

At our regular meeting on the 15th you will have the opportunity to nominate someone for the KWA board or volunteer yourself. We need you. Our program includes a panel of writers who will tell us how they conduct their research. You will get different ideas for doing your research. See you then.

## 2004 Competition

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

The 2004 competition is over. Awards have been handed out and the anthology is in the works. It was a tremendous contest with twice as many entries this year as ever before.

They came from not only the State of Kansas but from across the nation. KWA received entries from Missouri, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, South Carolina, Illinois, Oregon, Montana, North Carolina and California. Within Kansas, entries flowed in from Prairie Village, Overland Park, El Dorado, Gem, Bel Aire, Cedarvale, Newton, Shawnee Mission, McPherson, Clearwater, Augusta, Winfield, Kansas City, Haysville and Wichita.

Competition was tough as was mentioned by several of our judges. The judges themselves were tough. They were two journalists, one still with the *Eagle*, the other formerly with the *Eagle*, now with WSU. The others were professors or directors of Creative Writing programs at colleges and universities currently. One was a retired creative writing professor from New Mexico State.

Dr. Richard Spillman, Director of Creative Writing for WSU, chose the Best of the Firsts winner from the first place entries in all the categories, choosing *The Question*, the entry of Julia Kraus who won the Young Writer Prose category first.

We are scheduling the presentation of the 2005 anthology containing all the winners poems, articles and stories for April. There will be readings and signings at Watermark Books and Cafe. Look for the announcement in the near future.

## Member News

**Starla Criser** has sold her erotic romance novel, *If You Loved Me*, to Wicked Velvet. The novel will be published chapter-by-chapter online, and then sold again on a percentage basis as a download.

**Jennifer Fry** had her story "Insider's Guide to Enjoying the Grand Tetons National Park" published, along with photos, in the December, 2004 issue of East Wichita News.

**Myrne Roe** won an honorable mention in Byline Magazine's Poems in Formal Structure with her work, "Prairie Life."

**JoAnn Swearingen** was recognized November 6, 2004, as a winner in the *Cowboys and Indians Magazine* international short story contest. Five finalists and a grand-prize winner were named and honored with a banquet at the Tony Hillerman Mystery Writers Conference in Albuquerque, new Mexico. the judge presented the winners awards and prizes. She also received prizes from the executive vice president of the USFR media group, which publishes *Cowboys and Indians*. Her winning entry, titled "A Chance Meeting," is set in Colorado in the 1800s.

**Bonnie Tharp** was a runner Up in *The Wichita Eagle's* Christmas Story Contest for her ending to the Dasher Christmas story. Her name was listed in the Arts & Leisure section of *The Wichita Eagle* on December 19, 2004.

## James Harwood

James Harwood has started a new Yahoo! Group, HEREafterEbooks, which might interest a few of the other KWA members. The url is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HEREafterEbooks>. HEREafterEbooks involved collaborative writing. I've written and published the first book of the shared world/universe concept series to be the example for others to follow.

Writers wanted mainly for adventure science fiction, but other subgenres may be included. Interested writers may email me at [hereafter1956@yahoo.com](mailto:hereafter1956@yahoo.com) and all other emails should go to [jcharwood1956@yahoo.com](mailto:jcharwood1956@yahoo.com) for other subjects.

Yahoo! Group membership is free, and members of the group can get a free download of the first book as an ebook in html, MS Word, or PDF. It was originally published as a trade paperback in May 2004. I had cause to terminate the print publisher and pull the book. It is now available as an ebook, published by PulplessFiction at <http://www.pulplessfiction.com> owned by Terry Rickard in Australia. He is looking for more authors to publish. No poetry, nonfiction or horror novels.

## KWA Members' Websites

<http://www.caderussell.com>

**Andrew Aldreich**, aka Cade Russell, author of Old West fiction including *Blood for Blood*, *More Than One*, *Ten in Town*, *That Kind of Man*, *The Ghost of Boot Hill*, *The Time to Kill*, and *Time Four Tales Volume I: Hangman*.

<http://www.sktc.net/~beaton>

**Bonnie Eaton**, aka **B. J. Myrick**, author of *Dark Side of the Rainbow*, a short story collection of dark fiction, available as an e-book. Her site features book reviews and interviews of KWA members, writing articles, poetry, and excerpts from her book.

<http://www.hereafternovels.com>

**James Harwood**, author of *HEREafter, Book One: A Mild Case of Death*. HEREafterNovels.org is a collaborative writing organization created by James C. Harwood for the Shared World/Universe Concept series of HEREafter eBooks.

<http://www.flightfromdallas.com>

**James P. Johnston & Jon Roe**, author of *Flight from Dallas* from 1st Books Library.

<http://www.gordonkessler.com>

**Gordon A. Kessler**, author of *JEZEBEL*, *DEAD RECKONING* and *Novel Writing Made Simple*.

<http://www.starlakaye.com>

**Starla Kaye**, aka Starla Criser, author of *TUG OF LOVE* (novel), two novellas: *Hawke's Lady* and *Crooked T Ranch*, and numerous short stories.

<http://www.LeapDontSleep.com>

**John Madden**, author of numerous seminars and new book *LEAP, DON'T SLEEP!*

<http://www.sherilmcgathy.com>

**Sheri L. McGathy**, author of *ELFEN GOLD*, a fantasy available as an e-book or paperback.

<http://f5wichita.com/view/index.php?author=Trix>

**Trix Niernberger**, contributor to *F5*, Wichita's entertainment weekly, writer of short fiction and humorous essays.

<http://www.loisruby.com>

**Lois Ruby**, author of literature for children and young adults.

<http://scheerdelightpub.com>

**Ruth Scheer**, author of literature for children: *Hippopotamus*, *My Friend*, *Giraffe at the Zoo*, *Elephant's Trunk*, and *The Mouse and the Angel*.

<http://members.cox.net/bdtharp/>

**Bonnie Tharp**, has authored several short stories, articles, and the novel, *Feisty Fossils*. She's currently scouring the US for an agent and has begun work on her second novel, *Grace*.

<http://www.yoderbooks.com>

**James D. Yoder**, author of *The Yoder Outsiders*, *Song In a Nazi Night*, *Lucy of the Trail of Tears*, *A Branson Love*, *Sarah of the Border Wards*, *Barbara: Sarah's Legacy*, and *Simone: A Saint for Outsiders*.

## KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Newsletter

Please send all newsletter submissions of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the 20th of each month prior to publication to starlakaye@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Starla Criser, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, Wichita, KS 67207. All email attachments should have "KWA" in the subject line and can be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, Works, or rtf format.

## Join KWA For Only \$25.00

This will give you a one-year membership, our monthly newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to discounts to our various programs and seminars. Send your check to KWA, P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Visit our Web Site at: [www.kwawriters.com](http://www.kwawriters.com)

## Our Mission Statement

To inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

## KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236  
Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

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