



## **KWA Meeting**

**March 18**

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

**12:30—1:30 p.m. Pre-meeting mini-workshop  
“The Mysteries of MS Word”  
presented by Gordon Kessler**

This workshop will focus on MS Word for writers. We’ll project the program onto a projector screen so that everyone can see and work step-by-step through various issues common with writers.

**1:30—1:45 p.m. Social Time**

**1:45—3:30 Main Program  
Member Readings**

KWA members are invited to bring something to read aloud and share with those in attendance. Readings must be limited to 3 minutes in order to allow as many members as possible to share their work.

**3:30—5:00 p.m. Critique Session**

### **Critique Group**

“Finding Your Voice” critique group: Sara Huter is looking for members who wish to join an online critique group. This group is for anyone trying something new. Maybe you are new to writing, or perhaps you are trying to write in a different genre. Fiction and non-fiction welcome. We’ll work out the details. Email Sara.Huter@intrustbank.com if interested.

## **New & Renewing Members**

### **New**

Jody Wilson

### **Renewals**

Julie Anderson	Theresa Neal
Angela Criser	C. L. Ruthven
Carolyn Desmond	Jeanette Shepler
Mike Klaassen	Dwayne Smither
	James Wright

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**March 1 & 15**—GK Brainstormers novel-writing critique group, 7:00 p.m. in the “History” section at Borders East. Contact Gordon at [gordon@gordonkessler.com](mailto:gordon@gordonkessler.com) or 316-685-0098.

**March 18**—KWA Meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Pre-meeting mini-workshop, 1:30-2:00 p.m. Social time, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Member readings, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Critique Session. Rockwell Library.

**March 20**—Newsletter deadline for April.

**March 23**—KWA Board Meeting at Criser & Mardis, Chartered, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**March 26**—Sara Paretsky will be at Watermark Books to sign her latest book, *Fire Sale*, 2:00 p.m.

**April 2**—Anthology Signing Party at Watermark Books, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**April 5**—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., in the “History” section at Borders East. Contact Gordon Kessler at [gordon@gordonkessler.com](mailto:gordon@gordonkessler.com) or 316-685-0098.

# Market Place

## Contests

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

**Filler:** Deadline: March 10. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Short prose (up to 500 words) on any topic, from humor to household hints, tips, original anecdotes, etc.

**New-Talent Poetry:** Deadline: March 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$30 second, \$20 third. Submission: Any style, subject or length. Open to anyone who never has won a cash prize in a ByLine poetry category.

**Character Sketch:** Deadline: March 25. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Practice creating believable characters in 500 words or fewer. Show your character in a scene, doing something typical of him.

**Reason to Rhyme!** Deadline: March 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Rhymed poems of any length, on any topic.

**Flash Fiction:** Deadline: April 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$20 third. Submission: A quick fiction which feels complete in less than a thousand words. These stories often depend on atmosphere, technique, and a sense of immediacy.

### Kansas Voices

Deadline: March 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: Adult Division: \$275 best poem, \$275 best short story Youth Division: \$75 best poem, \$75 best short story. Submission: Unpublished poetry or short stories up to 20 pages. Details at <http://www.winfieldarts.com/events.htm>.

### Writers' Haven Press Love Poem Contest

Deadline: March 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: Cash prizes, prize winners and honorable mentions will be published. Submission: Two copies of each poem, any form, up to 60 lines. On both copies type "Love Poem Contest." On one copy only, type name, address, phone number and email address. Mail with check to Writers' Haven Press, 2006 Love Poem Contest, PO Box 368, Seabeck, WA 98380-0368.

### 2006 Wabash Prize for Fiction

Deadline: March 15. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$1,000 first, honorable mention. Both will be published in the Summer/Fall 2006 issue of The Sycamore Review. Submission: One story or collection of related short shorts, total entry up to 10,000 words. Details at <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/sycamore/sr/contest.htm>.

### Zero Boundaries Woman Contest

Deadline: March 20. Entry Fee: None. Prizes: \$25,000 each to the Zero Boundaries Woman of 2006 and her nominator. Submission: Share a story in less than 500 words of a woman who won't let anything stop her from making a positive difference in the lives of others. Someone whose unwavering commitment to the causes she believes in is an inspiration to us all. Details at <http://sss.dietrite.com>.

### Avari Press Young Adult Fantasy Fiction Contest

Deadline: March 31. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$200, an advance, and a book contract. Submission: Young Adult Fantasy novels between 60,000 and 120,000 words. Details at <http://www.avariypress.com/contest.htm>.

## Conferences

**Wichita Area Romance Authors "Discovering Story Magic"** presented by Robin Perini and Laura Baker  
Date: March 11, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Place: Friends University, Casado Campus Center  
Cost: \$65 for non-WARA members, \$55 for WARA members (lunch included in price)  
Details at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ks/WARA>.

### Murder in Spa City

"Creation & Craft: A Novel Writers Workshop" sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America-Southwest Chapter  
Date: April 1  
Place: Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Cost: \$67.25  
Details by emailing Andrea Campbell at [campbell@arkansas.net](mailto:campbell@arkansas.net) or get details at <http://members.cox.net/jachor>.

### 2006 Allen Press Emerging Trends Seminar

Date: April 26  
Place: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, D.C.  
Cost: \$149  
Sessions: Deconstructing the Journal, self-archiving, article impact in the age of the internet  
Details at <http://seminar.allenpress.com>.

### The Midwest National Writers Workshop

Hosted by The Wichita Eagle  
Date: April 29-30  
Place: Hyatt Regency Wichita  
Cost: \$75 before April 14, \$40 students  
Workshops: presented by a number of authors and columnists  
Details at <http://kansas.com>, and follow the link with the note-taking prairie dog at the lower left.

## Challenge Yourself

By Michelle Smith

Regardless of what type of writer you consider yourself—memoirist, novelist, poet, hobbyist or professional—you would probably like to improve yourself as a writer.

Maybe you feel overwhelmed with the burning desire to have written but can't figure out how to cross the chasm from wanting to doing. Perhaps you don't finish what you start. A couple of paragraphs of a short story or twenty pages of a novel and your brain freezes like you just sucked down a malt on an August day.

One way you can go about building a bridge from the desire to the ability is to give yourself challenges. Without challenging yourself you will not grow.

If you only write when you feel like it or you feel like you have time, your challenge might be to commit to writing for ten minutes every day for thirty days. After those thirty days, increase to twenty minutes. If you sit at your desk for thirty minutes every day staring at that blank piece of paper or blinking cursor without actually putting any words down, then your challenge would be to put the pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and write, no matter what kind of words come out.

Maybe you have stacks of finished poems or stories or even a novel, but you've never sent any of them out into the world. Pick a day of the week that you will spend one hour looking for a market for your work and then send something out. Anything, anywhere. Just practice writing the introductory letter for your pieces and send them out into the cruel world. See what happens.

It's the practice and the commitment that will allow you to improve as a writer. When you challenge yourself, you're saying that writing is important. That it's important to you and that admission will shift your mindset. Your mind will adapt to the challenge and rise to meet it.

Go ahead, challenge yourself to be a better or more consistent or more visible writer. Who knows what could come of something like that.

## Taxes and the Writer

By Starla Criser

Are you taking your writing seriously and doing it as a business and not just as a hobby? If you are, then there are a number of tax-related items you should be aware of.

An individual who works at writing as a for-profit business is allowed to deduct ordinary and necessary expenses in relation to that work. If the expenses are greater than the income, the loss is deductible against other income (i.e. wages, interest, dividends, etc.). The writing activity is considered a for-profit business if gross income exceeds deductions for three or more out of five consecutive years. If the income does not exceed the losses after that time period, the writer must prove that the work is a for-profit business according to the IRS Facts and Circumstances Test. Basically you must prove that you are serious about pursuing profit and acting like a legitimate business.

Strategies:

- Keep thorough and businesslike records of your income and expenses.
- Keep copies of letters sent to and from agents or editors.
- Use a separate business checking account.
- Use a separate credit card for the business.
- Record business and personal use of assets in a log book.

Expenses: (a partial listing)

- Advertising: Business cards, letterhead, ads, websites
- Car expenses: Mileage to meetings, research, and conferences at 44 1/2 cents for 2006 (must keep a log of dates, destination, reason, mileage)
- Commissions: Fees paid to agents
- Dues: Professional associations, writers groups
- Postage and Delivery
- Professional Services: Legal and accounting fees
- Reference Materials: Necessary books, magazines, and newspapers
- Office Equipment and Supplies

Most writers, unless you have made a large number of sales and fairly high income, simply need to fill out and add Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) with your individual income tax return. Schedule C, in this case, means you are a **Sole Proprietor**. This means you are the owner of a business as an individual and are solely responsible for all aspects of that business. You can have your real name, your a.k.a., or some other business name for the proprietorship.

## Emotion

By Starla Criser

### What is emotion?

According to the dictionary, *emotion* is (a) the affective aspect of consciousness, (b) a state of feeling, (c) a psychic and physical reaction subjectively experienced as strong feeling and physiologically involving changes that prepare the body for immediate vigorous action.

In layman's terms, it is a person's reaction to internal or external stimulus. Reactions are often based on our experiences with or our observations of something similar from our past. Characters should also react to events, experiences, objects, etc. based on what the writer imagines as the character's background. Characters can also react in what would be considered typical behavioral reaction, or in a way that the reader would accept either as normal or normal for that character.

A writer needs to dig deep into his/her own reactions in order to create realistic characters. Try considering objects in your environment and determining your reactions to them. There are surface reactions (what we assume would be the correct feeling) and there are deeper reactions (the subconscious feelings developed due to a past experience).

The following are some simple objects that might be in your house or office, and some assumed emotions tied with them, as well as some other possible emotions that might be evoked:

- *Wedding Photo*: romantic love, tenderness, happiness, discomfort, jealousy, bitterness, anger, guilt, sadness
- *Mother/Daughter Photo*: tenderness, happiness, maternal love, daughter's love, discomfort, sadness, regret, envy, bitterness
- *Island Resort Photo*: serenity, adventure, romance, envy, longing
- *Silly Souvenir Knick-Knack*: tenderness, happiness, wistfulness, humor, disgust, envy
- *Photo Album*: tenderness, happiness, sadness, regret, loneliness, discomfort, envy, loss
- *Phone*: acceptance, disgust, loneliness, sadness
- *Computer*: acceptance, anxiety, determination, fear, frustration, joy
- *Television*: relief, frustration, pleasure, peace, disgust

If your hero or heroine has gone through a bitter relationship or a divorce, just the sight of a wedding photo might cause a variety of emotional responses.

If a character has suffered the loss of a child, he/she might have a range of feelings from sadness to pain to anger.

The point here is that a writer must dig deep to create characters that seem real to the reader. You need to let the reader feel what the character felt.

### Simple tips for showing emotion:

- Build the emotional feeling as the scene unfolds.
- Use the viewpoint of the character that has the biggest emotional stake in the scene.
- Use body movements to convey emotion (show don't tell).
- Make the reader laugh and cry; be angry and determined, etc.
- Make the emotions real, stay away from clichés as much as possible.
- Give your main characters emotional intelligence, save the crazy and unbalanced emotions for secondary characters.
- Know your characters emotional buttons, how far you can push them, and what is their breaking point.

### Simple tips for showing sensuality:

- What it is: The spark of the relationship, the awareness between the hero and the heroine from first sight to the last page.
- *Sensuality* is more important than sex. It is mental and leads to sex. In a romance novel, it must be included in nearly every thought and deed.
- It's what the romantic characters want to do. It's their secret desire to be touched and loved by the other. They don't necessarily say it or act on it, but they think about it a lot.
- It's the way he protects her, or the way she takes care of him and his needs.
- It's how he looks all bloody after a battle, how exhausted after a rough day, or how she looks in a rainstorm.
- It's the way their eyes light up at the mere sight of each other.

## President's Letter

By Conrad Jestmore

What a treat it was for all of us who attended the February meeting. Starla Criser got us all worked up at the pre-meeting with her presentation on Romance, or more specifically, how to incorporate emotion into all genres. With the males out-numbered four to one, we had to think fast to defend our gender. Seriously though, thanks, Starla, for great ideas to help jump-start the writing process. And thanks to all the members who contributed to the discussion with their helpful suggestions, too.

Hazel Hart headed up the general meeting with an excellent point-by-point presentation on correct grammar usage. Once again, audience discussion helped apply the rules to practical situations all of us encounter daily as writers. Hazel, thank you, for your nuts-and-bolts approach that will be an aid to all of us. I guess I'd better go over this column with a fine tooth comb when I proof it.

And finally, Gordon Kessler facilitated our second critique group. For those who are getting involved in the process, it's a great tool and a wonderful experience to go through. We all learn, whether we are being critiqued or are one of those critiquing. Thank you Gordon, for guiding us through the process.

I hope to see each of you at the March meeting, where Gordon will unravel the mysteries of MS Word for us at the pre-meeting. Then, dust off one of your old chestnuts or bring something new you've written. It's read-around time. Time limit: three minutes. Suzann Robinson will be our enforcer with her stop watch.

## Booksigning News

**Sara Paretsky**, a Kansas native who has penned a dozen V.I. Warshawski books, will be at Watermark Books & Cafe on **March 26th** at 2:00 p.m. She will be signing her latest book, *Fire Sale*. Paretsky also helped to start the Sisters in Crime writers' group. Don't miss this great event!

**Lois Ruby** will be at Watermark Books for a signing of her latest book on **April 8** from 1 to 3:00 p.m. Her son, Jeff, will be with her signing copies of his book *Everybody Loves Pizza*.

## Member News

**Nancy Mehl's** *In the Dead of Winter* (working title) has been accepted by Barbour Books for their new mystery line, Spyglass Lane Mysteries. The book should be released either toward the end of 2006 or in early 2007.

**Dwayne Smither's** first novel, *The Deal*, was released in late November by AuthorHouse. The book is a suspense thriller based in Southeast Kansas. He has given interviews at four radio stations and the *Independence Reporter* did a feature story.

## KWA: 2006 Events

The new monthly meeting schedule will be:  
 12:30-1:30 p.m. Pre-meeting mini-workshop  
 1:30-1:45 p.m. Social time  
 1:45-3:30 p.m. Main meeting with a program  
 3:30-5:00 p.m. Critique session

**April 2** Anthology signing at Watermark Books

**April 8** Lois Ruby book signing at Watermark Books, 1 to 3 p.m.

**April 15** No mini-workshop. Main program by Steven E. Wedel, horror writer, 1-4. No critique session.

**May 20** Pre-meeting mini-workshop undetermined as yet. Main program on Writing for Young Adults by Mike Klaassen. Critique session to follow.

**June 17** Undetermined as yet.

**July 15** Undetermined as yet, but will probably be focused on writing poetry.

**August 19** Pre-meeting mini-workshop will be a romance industry update report by Starla Criser. Main program on entering contests by Colleen Kelly Johnston.

**September 16** Undetermined as yet.

**October 20-22** Scene of the Crime conference. Watch for details as the event planning progresses.

**November 18** Undetermined as yet.

**December 9** KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet.

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**Newsletter**

Please send all newsletter submissions of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the 25th 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.org](http://www.kwawriters.org)

**Our Mission Statement**

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

**KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:****KWA Meeting March 18, 2006****CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

ARTICLE—New and Renewing Members

ARTICLE—Contests, Conferences

ARTICLE—Challenge Yourself

ARTICLE—Taxes and the Writer

ARTICLE—Emotion

ARTICLE—President's Letter

ARTICLE—Member News