



Our Next KWA Meeting

November 20

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

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

**Program: Starla Criser
“Query Letter Magic”**

Generally, to get that first foot in the door with an agent or an editor, you must write a query letter. This mini-workshop will focus on the basic components of how to write a query letter for various types of works. There will be handouts, sample query letters, and open discussion. If you have a query letter that you would like to have help with, please bring it to the meeting.

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

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

Program: Dian Curtis Regan

“Writing for Young Readers of the 21st Century”

Ms. Regan will tell us how to write for and sell to today’s childrens market, based on her publishing successes. She has been inducted into the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame and has received a Distinguished Medal of Service in Childrens Literature. She has published fiction, nonfiction and poetry in childrens magazines and has written for Writers Digest, Byline and Scholastic Scope.

As preparation for the program, you may wish to visit her website (www.diancurtisregan.com) and become familiar with some of her books. She will welcome specific questions on her work and on the topic of writing for children.

New & Renewing Members

New

Julie Anderson	Bonnie Jacobs
Michelle Enke	Lawrence Nix
Alice Fleming	Glenda Skrzypek
Donda Hickman	Shirley June Wilson

Renewals

Bob High	Sally Osner
Kerry Johnston	Vickie Reed
John McKee	Ruth Scheer

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 3, 17—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

Nov. 5—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. at Betty Richard’s house.

Nov. 6—”How to Write and Illustrate Children’s Books” lunch and panel discussion sponsored by the Kansas Chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators. Watermark Books & Cafe, Douglas & Oliver, 1-4 p.m.

Nov. 5, 19 & Dec. 3— Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Nov. 20—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.

Nov. 20—Newsletter deadline for November.

Nov. 18—KWA Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., 1459 Homestead.

Dec. 12—KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet, 5:00-? p.m., The Shadow Restaurant, 550 N. Rock Rd.

Market Place

Market News

Judy Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, a lifetime achievement prize. Source: PublishersWeekly.com, Sept. 20, 2004.

C.R.I.M.S.O.N. D.A.G.G.E.R.

This will be an online mystery fiction magazine, with an anticipated launch date of January or February 2005. They are seeking submissions of 3,500-5,000 word short mystery fiction in all related mystery sub-genres, articles of 1,500-2,500 words about writing mysteries, and monthly columns. Payment is a one year subscription to the magazine, although eventually they hope to offer monetary payments. Guidelines at www.crimsondagger.com/submissions.html.

Bylines Writers' Desk Calendar

is seeking submissions from writers who have been published and paid for their work for their 2006 desk calendar. They want succinct personal stories about the writing life and a small, few sentences bio. Payment is exposure and promotion. Guidelines at www.bylinescalendar.com/guidelines.php.

Howard Publishing is a Christian publisher of six fiction titles per year. Guidelines at www.howardpublishing.com/pcsite/main/writerguidelines.asp.

Mountain View Publishing (part of Treble Heart Books) is seeking Christian fiction: short stories of 5,000-15,000 words, novellas of 20,000-49,000 words, and novels of 50,000-100,000 words. Guidelines at www.trebleheartbooks.com/files/Submissions_Guidelines.htm.

Transparent Words will be putting a special edition of the prize winning poetry magazine on-line in December 2004 as a special edition. The guest editors for this edition are Carol Sir-coulomb and Barbara Philips. They are seeking submissions of poetry using the theme of CHANGE in some way. The poem may be written in any style, no longer than 35 lines. Deadline: Nov. 20. Submissions can be made in the body of an email to billwestron@yahoo.com.

Speculative Literature Foundation Older Writers Grant is awarded annually to a writer who is fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application. They offer one \$750 grant annually. Guidelines at www.speculativeliterature.org/Awards/SLFOlderWriters.php.

Harlequin Historicals will be available only overseas, and through the bookclub and the eHarlequin website beginning July 2005.

Imajinn Books filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 13, but they will be undergoing a restructuring and not ending the publishing company.

Berkley Publishing editor John Morgan is looking for science fiction with heavy romantic elements and romantic fantasy for the Ace science fiction and Roc fantasy imprints.

Avon Books is looking for paranormal romance and Regency-set romances. They are also starting a line that focuses on ethnic characters and interracial romances.

Contests

ByLine Magazine Contests. For more information on all of their con-

tests, see www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

Open Theme Poetry Deadline: Nov. 10. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any subject, style or length.

Personal Experience Article Deadline: Nov. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$45 first, \$25 second, \$15 Third. Submission: An article which is based on the personal experience of the author and also offers insight or motivation for the reader.

Narrative Poem Deadline: Nov. 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: A poem that tells a story, any length or style.

Short-Short Story Deadline: Dec. 10. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$60 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Short story of any type or subject, up to 2,000 words.

Writer's Digest 5th Annual Short Short Story Competition

Deadline: Dec. 1. Entry Fee: \$12. Prizes: \$3,000 first, \$1,500 second, \$500 third, \$100 fourth-tenth, \$50 eleventh to twenty-fifth. Submission: Short stories up to 1,500 words. Details at www.writersdigest.com/contests/short_story.asp.

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. **Caution: In the past this organization (Used Ink) printed most poems submitted to their competition. Therefore, they would be considered published, therefore ineligible to be entered in other contests.**

Poets Beware

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

About nine years ago I encountered an ad from the National Library of Poetry for a contest with no entry fee required. At the point where I was beginning to consider some of my work publishable, I sent the one I considered my best. Before long I received a note of congratulations saying that my poem was a finalist in their competition. I was overjoyed and checked the mail regularly to see if I won anything.

In a couple of months I received a parchment certificate of honorable mention coupled with a letter telling me that special poems were being chosen to be recorded on tape by a professional reader and they would like to include mine. If I would like to be included in this project, would I please enclose a check for \$15 to cover the costs of the tape, a copy of which would be sent me when they were ready.

Subsequently I received notification that my “prize-winning” poem would be included in a “library quality” hardbound *Through the Looking Glass*. If I would like copies, please send a check for \$65 plus additional for shipping.

A year later my poem was to be included in a special edition of the best poems of 1996. Please send. . . .

The International Library of Poetry is one of several organizations of poor repute operating under the internet domains poetry.com and poets.com. Their ads have been appearing again, on websites, in the Sunday Parade Magazine, in newspapers. Poets should be advised of their method of operation.

They run contests several times yearly, offering entrance to anyone with no entry fee. Such an opportunity many writers feel should not be missed. The truth is that the “Libraries” will accept anything sent them. The “guaranteed” cash prizes are awarded but the odds of winning one of them is close to 1 in 1 million. The odds are better trying the lottery.

Serious poets consider the International Library of Poetry contests and their affiliated organizations to be unethical, and their free poetry contests a scam designed for no other purpose than to prey upon trusting and unwary amateur poets by relieving them of their money.

Do not be caught in this trap. If you are serious about your work, you can never include their book on a resume of your work. It is not considered an asset. If you simply want to be able to say you have had your poetry published, there are many other marketing opportunities to explore.

KWA Elections

Get Involved! Be on the KWA board in 2005. It only meets once a month for two hours, and is quite painless. E-mail Suzann to find out more (srobinson12@cox.net).

Keeping Track of Submissions

By Starla Criser

Even in your early stages of a writing career it can be beneficial to create a tracking system for your projects. It becomes more important when you are pursuing writing as a business rather than a hobby. A log of work submissions shows the IRS the progression of the work.

If you have Microsoft Excel, create a simple spreadsheet to track your work. You can have a continual tracking sheet, or, my preference, a specific tracking sheet for each year.

If you're limited on your computer skills or don't have a simple spreadsheet program, try using a file card holder and file cards for each project.

For either an Excel spreadsheet or the file card system, these are some suggested headings:

- Title of project
- Date submitted (whether it is a query letter, synopsis and proposal, or the whole manuscript)
- What submitted (query letter, etc.)
- Where submitted (agency, magazine, on-line site, publisher)
- Contact where submitted
- Date of response
- Note about the response
- Date of proposed publication
- What rights were purchased/given
- Date of actual publication
- Date paid
- Amount of payment

This same system can be used for keeping track of contest submissions and the results. I keep track of these on the same spreadsheet, but at a section farther down on the page, so that all of my year's work is together.

2004 Scene of the Crime Highlights

Veteran WPD Detective, Lt. Kenneth Landwehr, started off the day by explaining the methods involved in crime investigation. He shared with the attendees the goals in a homicide investigation, the two types of evidence: communicated and physical, details about legal access, the difference between an interview and an interrogation, the purpose of an investigation, and more.

Supervisory Special Agent of the FBI in Kansas, Shawn Stroud, started off by relating some of the FBI history and a number of statistics about the FBI today. He also shared with those in attendance the FBI's top ten investigative priorities:

1. Protect the United States from terrorist attack.
2. Protect the United States against foreign intelligence operations and espionage.
3. Protect the United States against cyber-based attacks and high-technology crimes.
4. Combat public corruption at all levels.
5. Protect civil rights.
6. Combat transnational and national criminal organizations and enterprises.
7. Combat major white-collar crime.
8. Combat significant violent crime
9. Support federal, state, county, municipal, and international partners.
10. Upgrade technology to successfully perform the FBI's mission.

KWCH Channel 12 weekend anchor, Michael Shwanke, moderated a panel of criminologists: Mindy Johnson (fingerprint analyst), Dan Fahnestock (forensic biologist), WPD Officer Eugene Jacobs (crime scene investigation), and Barbara Downer (handwriting analyst) who answered questions from the audience. During this time, Fahnestock explained what CODIS (Combined DNA Indexing System) was and how it worked. He also shared that identical twins have the same DNA and same blood type, but different fingerprints.

During lunch Gaylord Dold read some of the early correspondence he had with agents and editors, in particular some rejections as well as encouragements. It was something that any writer who has submitted a query letter or their work anywhere could identify with. Following Dold, Robert Beattie told the attendees some of the facets of his work on a book about Wichita's BTK killer that he is still writing.

After lunch, Officer Eugene Jacobs, who works with the WPD on crime scene investigation, led us through some

typical procedures. He shared with the attendees a number of photographs from various investigations and answered questions. As an added treat, the WPD's crime scene van came for everyone to examine and ask questions about.

WPD Capt. Darrel Haynes discussed the various Special Operations units: Administrative Traffic Section AFU-Cat Team, SWAT Team, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Unit—Bomb Unit), Air Section, Chaplain Program, Honor Guard, Mounted Unit, Reserve Unit, and the Warrant Section. He explained that while the BombSquad works with the ATF they are temporarily commissioned as US Marshals. Again, as an added bonus for the attendees, Capt. Haynes had the WPD's BombSquad van come so that everyone could see it up close and ask questions about it.

Chief Medical Examiner for Sedgwick County, Dr. Mary Dudley, discussed the role forensic medical investigation plays in solving cases. She explained the three types of deaths, the categories of injury, and the methods of identification.

Forensic anthropologist at WSU, Dr. Peer Moore-Jansen, discussed the types of scenes, what is done to examine a scene, and facets of analysis, including how to build a biological profile. He had a lot of photos to share with us, and some very interesting details about what a specialist in his field looks for during an investigation.

Dale German Award

The Dale German Award is KWA's highest honor. It is given to the person who most exemplifies our mission statement: to inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer. The winner receives a beautiful plaque and a lifetime membership to the Kansas Writers Association.

Nominations are open for the **2004 Dale German Award** for someone who has given "above and beyond" in work for the KWA.

Written statements not to exceed 250 words, stating the nominee's name and reason for nomination are accepted by writing to KWA Nominations, PO Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201.

Deadline: November 20, 2004

2004 Scene of the Crime Photos



Attendees at morning session



WPD Lt. Kenneth Landwehr speaking to attendees



Gordon Kessler introducing FBI Supervisory Special Agent Shawn Stroud



KWCH Channel 12 weekend anchor Michael Shwanke



Attendees at lunch with Gaylord Dold (second from left)



WPD Capt. Darrel Haynes discussing Special Operations



Forensic anthropologist at WSU Dr. Peer Moore-Jansen



Attendees at lunch with Robert Beattie (only man at the table)



Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Mary Dudley

Writers' Exercises

- Pick five people you know and write a one-sentence description for each of them.
- Write a 500-word biography of your life.
- Write your obituary, listing all of your life's accomplishments. This can be written as if you died today, or some point in the future.
- Write a 500-word description of your home.
- Write a diary page of a main character from your current Work In Process.
- Rewrite a scene of your current WIP written in third person into first person, or vice-versa.
- Write down everything you can remember from your earliest childhood memory.
- Write a 200-word description of your workplace.
- Create a scene that unfolds at your workplace, complete with a hero and a villain.
- Write a comical scene about cooking dinner where everything that can go wrong does.
- Using a story you've already written or are working on, take a scene and rewrite it from another character's viewpoint.
- Pretend it's the middle of the night and you hear a loud bang outside and glass breaking. Write your reactions and immediate thoughts.

Terms Used in the Writing Industry

Borrowed with permission from Gordon Kessler's *Novel Writing Made Simple*.

ghostwriting: the writing of a story in which the credit and byline goes to someone else, perhaps a well-known celebrity.

gothic: novel genre, many times set in an old mansion or ancient castle, involving an innocent protagonist being tormented by a very evil or supernatural antagonist(s).

grand guignol: horror story depicting blood and gore.

high concept: novel with a simple but compelling and very commercial plot. Hollywood material.

horror: novel genre involving horrific events, usually supernatural.

inspirational: a type of writing which incorporates a particular philosophy that may be adapted to the reader's own life.

intrigue: concerning a secret or intricate plot.

mainstream: novel with broad appeal traditionally centered around realistic, everyday life subjects. Sometimes mainstream is considered more literary, transcending typical genre novels.

medial thriller: a sub genre of the thriller set in the medical field.

mystery: novel genre relying on discovery of clues to solve dilemma. Can be a *who done it*.

picaresque: novel with a scoundrel as its main character, e.g. *Tom Jones*.

second-level story: refers to the inner, psychological lives of characters, sometimes called interior or inner plot.

suspense: novel genre relying on the building of fear, anticipation and uncertainty. Also, an element of fiction in which the outcome of a critical situation is uncertain and the leading up to resolution is gripping.

Looking Ahead

December 12—Annual Awards Banquet at The Shadow

January 15—"How to Research Your Writing," presented by a panel of writers

February 19—"Romance Is In The Air," presented by a panel of romance authors on the romance writing industry

Member News

Grace Becker won first place for her Narrative Verse, "The Cave of Sebastian," in the Kansas Author's Club state contest.

Conrad Jestmore won four prizes in the Kansas Author's Club state contest: a first and a third in the Poetry Theme Contest for "High Plains Magic" and "Write on Kansas," a first for his memoir, "Kodak Black and White," a third place for his poem about a Kansas author, "Of Cemeteries and Symmetries," and an honorable mention for his light verse, "The Lady of Shallot."

Colleen Kelly Johnston took two first places in the Kansas Author's Club state contest: one for her Classic Forms poem, a pantoum, "The Tall Grass Prairie," and one for the First Five Pages of a Book for *The Judas Goat*. She also received an honorable mention for her Free Verse poem "The Blue Plate Special."

Trix Niernberger is featured in the Bylines 2005 Writers' Desk Calendar. The calendar contains inspiration and humor from writers for each week of the year and can be purchased from Watermark Books.

Myrne Roe won an honorable mention in Byline Magazine's recent contest for Summer poetry. Myrne's winning poem is titled, "Vernacular."

James Wright won first place in the Kansas Author's Club state contest in the Short Story category for "The Sharpshooter" and two honorable mentions in the same category for "The Calf" and "Demolition."

Children's Book Panel Discussion

Saturday, November 6th from 1 to 4 p.m.
Watermark Books & Cafe at Douglas & Oliver

"How to Write and Illustrate Children's Books" will be the focus of a lunch and panel discussion. The speakers will discuss the current market for writing and illustrating children's books, covering all ages from toddlers to teens. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. (www.scbwi.org)
Speakers:

Lee Wardlaw—author of 20 books, www.leewardlaw.com

Debra Seely—author of two books, www.debraseely.com

Dian Curtis Regan—author of 45 books, www.diancurtisregan.com

Luanne Marten—SCBWI Regional Advisor for Kansas, and children's book illustrator; www.luannemarten.com

To Register: Send \$15 for SCBWI Members or \$18 for Non-members to SCBWI, 2250 N. Rock Rd., Ste. 118-182, Wichita, KS 67226. Please make checks payable to SCBWI.

Questions: email wichitaSCBWI@aol.com

KWA Members' Websites

<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.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* and numerous short stories.

<http://www.LeapDontSleep.com>

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

<http://www.sherilmcathy.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*.

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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

Our Mission Statement

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

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236
Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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