



KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet

December 12
The Shadow Restaurant
550 N. Rock Rd.
5:00 p.m. Reception
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Presentation of Awards

Registrations were required by December 1

CALL FOR ENTRIES MEMBERS ONLY

KWA is looking for a cover to enhance our 2005 Anthology of contest winners.

Deadline: December 30 postmark.

Designs: Color or black and white. Must allow space for or include title — Words Out Of the Flatlands.

Size: 8 1/2 x 11, letter size.

Prize: Cover chosen will be used on the books. Designer will receive one free copy and attribution in the newsletter and on the cover.



As an example, here is the 2004 Anthology cover, designed by Conrad Jestmore.

New & Renewing Members

New

Andrew Aldreich James Harwood
Tonya L. Cummings Jan Kimbrell

Renewals

Angela Criser Diana Kitch
Gary Cummings Billy McCray
F. T. Earley Margaret Morrison
Patrice Hutton Barbara A. Williams
Sharon Jesik

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 3, 17, and 31— Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Dec. 4—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. at Linda Gebert’s home.

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

Dec. 15—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

Dec. 27—Newsletter deadline for January.

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

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

Jan. 25 start—Gordon Kessler’s “Novel Writing Made Simple” course at Hutchinson Community College.

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

Market Place

Market News

Mills & Boon Temptation series has moved to Harlequin Mills & Boon's office in London. They are actively looking for new writers based anywhere in the world. Tessa Shapcott, Senior Editor. Word length: 60,000. Guidelines at www.eharlequin.com or www.millsandboon.co.uk.

Harlequin Historicals previously announced they would cease distribution in North America. In November they announced that they will continue distribution in the top-selling North American markets, such as K-Mart, Wal-Mart, and the larger bookchains.

Avalon Books is actively seeking Chick Lit romance submissions. They are no longer publishing romantic suspense. They also publish mystery, historical, and westerns. Details at www.avalonbooks.com/wrtgdl.html.

Loveland Press (a small publisher) is looking for romance submissions of at least 80,000 words; no erotica. Details at www.lovelandpress.com.

Genesis Press, Inc. is looking for fiction novels 75,000-100,000 words in length with African-American or cross-cultural main characters. Details at www.genesis-press.com/submissions.aspx.

Amazing Journeys Magazine is seeking short work of 3,000 to 10,000 words in most science fiction and fantasy genres. They are also interested in poetry between 20 and 40 lines. Details at www.journeybooksonline.com/

Contests

ByLine Magazine Contests. For more information on all of their contests, see www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

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.

Poem of Loss Deadline: Dec. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Losing a loved one, losing your way, losing faith. Any style or length.

Holiday Memories Deadline: Dec. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Article or essay focused on a special holiday memory that left a lasting impression or impact on the writer's life.

Women's Poem Deadline: Dec. 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length, for or about women.

Free Verse Deadline: Jan. 5. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any subject or length, unrhymed.

First Annual Dorrie Wheeler/ Sparkledoll Productions New Author Contest

Deadline: Dec. 15. Entry Fee: \$8. Prizes: Winner will receive a \$150 gift certificate and be published by Sparkledoll Productions. Second runner up will receive a \$25 gift certificate. Submission: Manuscript at least 25,000 words in length for the mature teen/college age female, about real life subject matters, written in first person with strong female leads. Details at www.sparkledoll.com/publishing/writingcontest.htm.

The Weldon Kees Award

Deadline: Dec. 31. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: \$125 for each of three winners, who will be published and receive 10% of the press run. Submission: 20-30 page chapbook of original poetry. Details at www.thebackwaterspress.homestead.com/kees.html.

New Discovery Poetry Contest by The Writer and Rosebud magazines.

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2005. Entry Fee: \$10 for up to 3 poems. Prizes: \$1,000 first, \$300 second, \$200 third. Winning entries and runners-up will be published in *Rosebud* magazine. Submission: Poems up to 40 lines, original and previously unpublished. Details at www.writermag.com/wrt/default.aspx?c=a&id=1728.

Amber Heat Wave Contest

Deadline: Jan. 1-15 only. Entry Fee: None. Prizes: Winning manuscripts will receive Amber Quill Press's standard one-year contract and be published in June 2005; winners announced February 1, 2005. Submission: All sub-genres of erotic romance, at least a "Hard-R" rating. Details at http://www.amberquill.com/AHWave_contest2005.html.

2005 Raymond Carver Short Story Award

Deadline: Jan. 4, 2005. Entry Fee: \$15. Prizes: \$2,500 first, \$1,000 second, \$500 third, all finalists receive \$100. Trophies to top three awards, winners will be published in the *Best of Carve Magazine, Volume Six*. All finalists will be published in the May 1, 2005 *Carve Magazine*. Submission: Unpublished fiction to 8,000 words. Details at www.carvezine.com/contest.htm.

2nd Annual Pulse Poetry Prize

Deadline: January 14 to April 15.
 Entry Fee: \$3.50 per poem, \$10 for three poems. Prizes: \$100 first, \$50 second, 3 honorable mentions. All winners will be published in *Pulse*.
 Submission: No theme or form, just send your best work. No light verse or doggerel. Limit: up to 60 lines.
 Electronic submissions only, pasted into e-mail to mim47@mac.com; payment by PayPal or personal check. Visit Pulse website to make payment.

2005 Poetry Contest by The Poetry Society of Virginia

Deadline: Jan. 19, 2005. Entry Fee: \$3 per poem. Prizes: Varies per the 23 categories. Submission: Poetry line limit varies per category. Details at www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/sys-tmpl/2005poetrycontest.

Conferences**2005 San Francisco Writers Conference**

Dates: Feb. 18-20, 2005
 Location: Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco
 Program: Best selling authors, literary agents, top publishing professionals; forty "how-to" sessions, panels, workshops; "speed dating" pitch sessions with agents.
 Cost: \$425 Dec. 1-Jan. 15
 **Conference sells out, so register early.

Second Annual Henderson/Las Vegas Writers Conference

Dates: March 3-6, 2005

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).

Location: Hampton Inn, Las Vegas
 Program: Panels of agents, editors and self-published authors, sessions and workshops.

Focus: Mystery.

Cost: \$225 earlybird, includes most meals.

Number of Attendees: 30.

Details: <http://writing.shawguides.com/HendersonLasVegasWritersConference>

2005 Florida Christian Writers Conference

Dates: March 3-6, 2005

Location: Christian Retreat Conference Center, Bradenton, Florida
 Program: Editors, agents and freelance authors. 56 workshops, classes, one-on-one appointments with editors and agents.

Cost: \$425 meals and tuition only; \$550 double occupancy, meals and tuition.

Details: www.flwriters.org

Truckee Meadows Community College Writers' Conference

Dates: April 7-10, 2005

Location: John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, Nevada (near Reno)
 Program: Comprehensive workshops in fiction and poetry, lectures, panel discussions, and readings.

Cost: Track "A" workshops for all 4 days, \$389. Track "B" weekend lectures, \$109 before Feb. 28, 2005.

Details: www.tmcwriters.com/index.html.

KWA January Mini-Workshop**"Writing Goals for 2005"**

by Hazel Hart

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? Did you write a certain amount each day? Enter your work in a certain number of contests? Query editors every week? Write a short story or poem every week? If you have a published book, did you take steps to sell more copies? Did you put together a book of your poems, stories, and/or memoirs?

Or are you like me, wondering how the year could be this close to over with so little accomplished? If you are, what obstacles kept you from achieving your goals and how you will overcome those obstacles in 2005? Will you set aside a regular writing time, take a course, join a critique group, attend a conference, or send out a certain number of query letters every week?

Whichever it is, come to the January 15th pre-meeting mini-workshop and share your triumphs, trials, and plans for the future.

KWA 2005 Calendar

January 15 — Pre-meeting mini-workshop on Writing Goals for 2005; meeting program will be a panel discussion on research.

February 19 — Pre-meeting mini-workshop on Writing Intimate Scenes; meeting program will be a panel discussion by published romance authors.

March 19 — Anthology presentation.

President's Letter

We are beginning a new column from the president this month. How about a catchy title? Send us your suggestions for a clever name for this column. We're writers, we should be able to think of something creative.

The turkey leftovers are gone and we are beginning or finishing, depending on our organizational skills, preparing for Christmas. Our Awards Banquet December 12 will be a memorable event, a culmination of a good year at KWA. So now we're about to start a new year.

2005 will be filled with many thought provoking and entertaining programs. January we'll find out about researching from a panel of three KWA members: Louise Pelzl, Sharon Jesik and Matt Curry. In February we will learn how to write love scenes. The rest of the year will include published writers, poets, publishers, a "Meet the Editors Day," a pool party (in warmer weather), our annual Scene of the Crime Conference and many other programs to help us improve our writing.

What are your suggestions for programs? Do you know of a good speaker? We want to provide information that will help all of us as writers. Tell us what you want. Email me or tell any board member you see.

Best wishes for a safe and joyous Christmas from the KWA Board: Conrad, Matt, Richard, Starla, Hazel, Arlene, Colleen, Gordon, and Suzann.

Suzann Robinson, President

srobinson12@cox.net

KWA Board of Director Job Descriptions

The election of officers and appointment of additional board members for the association will take place at the January meeting. Officers are elected for one year terms. Those who hold board positions should be able to attend most general monthly meetings and board meetings. The Board usually meets on the Thursday evening following the regular meeting. Nominations for any and all seats will be open at the meeting. A brief job description for each follows:

OFFICERS

President: Presides at all general and Board meetings, provides an agenda, leads discussions, delegates special projects and generally provides leadership for the organization.

Vice-President: Takes the place of the president in his or her absence and takes charge of any projects required by Board action.

Secretary: Attends all general and Board meetings, takes minutes and provides copies to Board members in advance of meetings.

Treasurer: Takes charge of all monies for KWA, provides financial reports monthly to the Board and membership, accounts for financial reckoning for all special projects, workshops and competitions.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

Newsletter Editor: Gathers information of interest to our membership and puts out the monthly newsletter.

The two **At-large Board members** attend all Board meetings, provide input and volunteer time for the work of the organization.

Historian: Gathers all information about KWA and its members to be kept in an official scrapbook for the organization.

Promotions Manager: Takes charge of securing speakers for our meetings, arranging for publicity for KWA's programs and special projects, suggests those matters to the Board which would benefit the good name of the organization.

Website Coordinator: Updates and maintains the website on a monthly basis.

Contest Coordinator: Coordinates all facets of the annual competition.

Ambassador: Represents and promotes KWA.

Taking a Dare

by Colleen Kelly Johnston

Every once in a while I seem to lose my sense of reality and allow someone to bait me into accepting a challenge. Curt Robertsen, a/k/a Orion, has a particular talent for taunting me with a dare that makes superficial sense, and I'm off.

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and Orion is a long time participant. I'm not sure how many novels he has completed but that's beside the point. I have listened to much published authors relate how they write two novels a year. Others say the key is just to sit down and start. The NaNoWriMo Program is predicated on this method. Just sit down and begin. Don't go back and revise. Don't review. Take the thirty days of November and complete a 50,000 word masterpiece within that time. That's six thousand words every five days. Insane. I don't know how I got into this.

Crazily, it seems to be working. As of today, November 20, I should have completed 32,500 words. I have 37,015 down. More surprising, they make sense, in a continuous flow of suspense. I can see the rest of the story coming and it's no problem to sit down in the early morning and pick up where I left off the day before. The story is constantly evolving in my mind whether I'm cooking, pulling weeds in the garden, just waking up or drifting off to sleep. I have to admit I've gotten hung up in a couple of places, stalled for a day or so. There are spots that need beefing up, others where changes have to be made because the characters have suddenly taken another tack. But still, I'm ahead of schedule.

The major problem with this method is that my mind is so caught up with the story, I forget other problems. Like the dentist appointment I missed entirely. I almost forgot to pick up my granddaughter at school because I got caught up in an intricate escape from danger by my heroine. I lost all track of time. I can't remember names of people who happen to interrupt me with phone calls or making sure there is something in the house for dinner. My husband may, by the end of the month, get very tired of Stouffers' entrees.

But, amazingly, the method is working. By the thirtieth of the month I'll have the first complete draft of a complete story down on paper, and not a bad story at all. I must admit I did cheat — slightly. I began with a story I started fifteen months ago which had become stalled. I used small sections of it and the setting is the same, also most of the same characters. But an entire fresh timeline took over and now advances the story.

By the thirtieth, I'm going to enjoy laughing at Orion. Then I'll begin revising.

Create as does a child, without concern for what others may think or whether it's been done before.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

SCBWI is an international organization for people who write, illustrate, or share an interest in children's literature.

Every year, SCBWI sponsors a two-day international conference in New York and a four-day conference in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.scbwi.org.

Members of the main organization receive: A bi-monthly Bulletin containing industry news, articles and current marketing information; over 25 separate publications on everything from foreign and educational markets to contracts and copyright; manuscript exchange; critique groups; and conferences and workshops.

6th Annual Winter Conference

Dates: February 5 and 6, 2005

Location: The Hilton, New York

Speakers: Well-known illustrators, authors, and editors.

Cost: \$290 (members), \$340 (non members)

Details: www.scbwi.org/events.htm.

Kansas has a regional SCBWI chapter, which sponsors local events. An online newsletter keeps everyone up to date. Luanne Marten, in Kansas City, is the Regional Advisor. Visit the website for the Kansas chapter at www.geocities.com/ks_scbwi.

Writers' Exercises

- Take your favorite article from any magazine or newspaper and retype it to experience what it was like to write the article.
- Write about the current season. Is this your favorite season? Why or why not?
- Think about the first five or so years of your life. Write a chapter on your key memories.
- Write a letter to your Muse asking for inspiration and the creativity to write the next great novel.
- Write a short biography of someone you know very well (a relative or friend).
- Try writing a script for an episode of your favorite TV sitcom or drama.
- Write a poem that uses an animal as a metaphor for an emotion.
- Write about how you would change your life if you could, and include details about what your dream life would be.
- Write down any brushes with the mysterious (something you couldn't explain) you've had.
- Write about a magical power that you would like to have and why.
- Write a scary story that could be told to children around a campfire.
- Describe your childhood home, and include all the details you can remember.
- Write about your family dynamics during holiday dinners.

A Love Letter to My Critique Group

by Margaret "Peg" Morrison

There's a biweekly meeting which is, unnecessarily, scribbled in my calendar. The note is superfluous because the time is seared in my brain. Like a baby knows, without being told, when it's time to eat, I know when it's time to examine my work.

I've had brief encounters before with other writers' groups where some members consider the reader fair game, where one person assumed the role of judge and jury, or where the drop of a pencil became a judge's gavel's rap. Here, nobody blames spellcheck or hides behind a dangling participle. We're all glad for every solution. When a suggestion improves a plot or the rhythm, we all leave the room winners.

Changes happen. I no longer live at the same address, work at a job I get paid for, or move in the same crowded social circle as I did when I joined the group. Our membership is not static, but being part of it still gives me a boost because, every time we meet, someone's presented work always proves that good writing does still exist.

There is mystery and poetry. There are those who sweat the details and those who ride on the crest of a great mood. Some are so good I think they sometimes misplace a comma or deliberately throw in an awkward word just to give me some exercise.

We are at ease in each other's presence even though suggestions sometimes use a sharp scalpel. When we close the door to the basement room where we meet we become, in a sense, a true underground group. We know what is said there won't become public discussion.

No one of us has all the ingredients for good writing in every category, but like soda and vinegar, when we're together in the same place, we really effervesce.

Vernacular

by Myrne Roe

August's hot breath distressed the curtains,
made me wander to the old woman
who smelled of peppermint, worked
in her basement next to a fan with rubber blades.
From her bushel basket that once held fall's apples,
she unfurled a damp shirt cylinder.
First the collar. Then the sleeves and yoke, she said.
A bowl of tepid water waited
for sprinkles on cotton soon dried.
She shared stories of summers too frigid to swim,
others when winds drove sand through walls.
She paused, peered past her work
to stored jelly jars, one marbled
by a spider crocheting its web. Told me,
It's easier to iron the wrinkles in than to iron them out.

Member News

Starla Criser has sold chapter 5 of novella *Hawke's Lady* and her full novella *Crooked T Ranch* to ABCD Webmasters.

Gary and Tonya Cummings attended the Flathead River Writers Conference in October.

Bonnie Tharp has published an article about "The Lord's Diner" soup kitchen in *The Wichita Register Magazine*. The November/December issue can be found at Barnes & Noble, Watermark Books, and Borders East. "This is one of many worthwhile organizations that serve the needy in Wichita not only during the holidays, but all year round. I'm proud to have the opportunity to inform the public of this program."

Sad News

KWA sends our condolences to **Mark Leake** at the loss of his mother in November.

"Novel Writing Made Simple"

Courses by Gordon Kessler

January 29: One day, noncredit workshop called "Novel Writing Made Simple" at Butler County Community College in Andover; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; \$20. For more info or to enroll, please call Jan and BCCC (316) 322-3109.

Starting January 25: Four week, noncredit course called "Novel Writing Made Simple" at Hutchinson Community College in McPherson; Tuesday nights 6-9 p.m.; \$45. For more info on that class call HCC, McPherson at (620) 245-0202.

Prepare Now for Tax Time

- Make sure your mileage/expense log is up-to-date.
- Locate and organize all your writing-related receipts for computers, software, copies, dues, fees paid, office supplies, postage, reference books, magazines, and subscriptions.
- Locate all fees paid to agents or expenses paid for self-publishing and advertising.
- Locate all income from any type of writing related sale, including amounts received in royalties.

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.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*.

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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
REQUESTED

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