



New & Renewing Members

KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet

December 10

The Shadow Restaurant
550 N. Rock Rd.

5:30 p.m. Reception
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Presentation of Awards

Registrations were required by December 5.

Master of Ceremonies — Chris Shull,
arts columnist and feature writer for the Wichita Eagle

KWA wants to give a special thanks to all of those who entered the competition this year, to the judges, and especially to the sponsors.

Renewals

Tonya Cummings
Phyllis C, Rowland
Linda Taylor

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 10—KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet, The Shadow, 550 N. Rock Rd.

Jan. 20, 2007—KWA Meeting at Rockwell Library. Board meeting (open to all members) 11:30-1:15 p.m., Break 1:15-1:30 p.m., Mini-workshop 1:30-2:30 p.m., Break 2:30-2:45 p.m., Program 2:45-4:30 p.m. on writing exercises. *This will be our tentative new schedule for most of the months in 2007.*

2007 KWA Tentative Calendar

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15

Market Place

Market News

Quill-Pen.net Press is accepting submissions of 4,000-7,000 words for *The Magazine of Unbelievable Stories*. They have specific guidelines with storylines to follow. Standard royalty is \$40 per story, paid upon acceptance. Details at <http://quill-pen.net/Submission.html>.

Silhouette Bombshell series will end January 2007. The series did not find a broad-based readership.

Contests

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

Short-Short Story: Deadline: Dec. 5. 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: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$20 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, \$25 third. Submission: Article or essay focused on a special holiday memory that left a lasting impression or impact on the writer's life. Maximum 1,200 words.

Women's Poem: Deadline: Dec. 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length, for or about women.

Writers Digest Poetry Awards

Deadline: Dec. 20. Entry Fee: \$10 for first poem, \$5 for each additional poem. You may enter as many poems

as you wish, but all poems must be entered at the same time. Prizes: \$500 first, \$250 second, \$100 third, \$25 fourth through tenth, \$50 gift certificate for *Writer's Digest Books* for eleventh through twenty-fifth place. Submission: Original poetry, unpublished and not submitted elsewhere until the winners are announced. Details at www.writersdigest.com/contests/poetry/index.asp.

15th Dame Lisbet Throckmorton Fiction Writing Contest

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2007. Entry Fee: \$15. Prizes: \$500 first, \$125 second, \$75 third, \$50 fourth. Submission: Original fiction of any genre up to 3,500 words. Details at <http://coffeefiction.com>.

Deadly Ink Short Story Contest

Deadline: April 15. Entry Fee: \$7. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$10 third. Submission: Short story up to 3,000 words, set in New Jersey, must contain a deadly incident, clues must include pen or ink. Details at <http://deadlyink.com>.

Wallpaper Writing Contests

Deadline: April 30, 2007. Entry Fee: None. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$10 third (each category). Submission: Short Fiction Contest: Write a fictional story up to 1,000 words in diary form. It can be funny, deep, emotional, romantic, sci-fi, horror, whatever you like. Poetry Contest: A poem that expresses in some way what is truly meaningful in your life, up to 20 lines and 200 words. Haiku Contest: A funny, sad, deep or ridiculous haiku in a 5-7-5 structure. Details at <http://www.markpeterhughes.com/Contests.html>.

Conferences

Romantic Times Annual Booklovers Convention

Date: April 25-29

Location: Hyatt Regency, Houston

Cost: \$459 for writers or readers

(includes all seminars and parties)

Details at [http://](http://www.rtconvention.com)

www.rtconvention.com.

National Writers Workshop in Wichita

Date: May 19-20

Location: Hyatt Regency, Wichita

Cost: \$75 for professionals, \$40 for students

Speakers: Confirmed speakers so far

include Pulitzer winners Jacqui Banaszynski of the University of Missouri, Scott Kraft of the L.A. Times, and Jim Sheeler of the Rocky Mountain News, who'll bring one of the most poignant and moving presentations you'll see anywhere on the power of telling true stories. Also planned are MetaFilter founder Matt Houghy, Poynter's Roy Peter Clark and Al Tompkins, investigative writer Pete Slover of the Dallas Morning News, USA Today Washington Bureau chief Susan Page, headliner Award winner Larry Welborne of the Orange County Register, and McClatchy Iraq bureau chief Nancy Youssef.

Sessions: Geared to equip you in the increasingly in-demand skills of multi-media reporting, writing and editing. Workshop website available in early 2007 at poynter.org and Kansas.com.

ThrillerFest 2007

Date: July 12-15

Location: Grand Hyatt, New York City

Spotlight Guests: James Patterson,

Jeffery Deaver, Heather Graham,

Vince Flynn, and Lisa Gardner

Cost: Advance special rate \$574 (until Dec. 31, 2006), regular rate \$599 (until March 31, 2007)

Details at <http://www.thrillerfest.com>.

Contest in Hands of Judges

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

Did you get your entries in by the deadline, October 31? Over 170 writers succeeded. On November 3 the entries were sorted and turned over to the judges. Already several of the judges have commented on the high quality of the work presented.

Enough entries arrived to fulfill all categories except Stories of Wichita. KWA requires a minimum of five entries to constitute a complete category. The writers who submitted prose for Wichita Stories were contacted and their work entered either in Short Fiction or Creative Non-Fiction.

All winners have been notified by regular mail. Those letters were in the mail by Thanksgiving Day. They did not tell the winners what they won, only that they won a prize. Full details of the awards presentation on December 10 were included. All members and winners are welcome, although it is not necessary to attend dinner. Winners may join the party for the presentation only. Awards will be mailed to any winners who cannot be with us.

All winning poetry and prose must be submitted to KWA at KWACompete@aol.com by email no later than December 30, 2006 so they can be included in the annual anthology, *Words Out of the Flatlands —2007*.

Competition for submitting cover designs for the anthology is November 30. Covers must be flat, able to be converted to a jpeg file, and must include the title name on the cover. Designs should be mailed or delivered to Colleen Johnston, 1459 N. Homestead, Wichita, KS 67208.

Do a favor for a writing friend or acquaintance — invite them to attend a KWA monthly meeting. Writing is a business where we work basically alone, but it is important to network with other writers. In KWA we share and learn from our fellow writers, we try to provide programs of interest on the craft of writing and in various genres, and we celebrate each other's successes.

President's Letter

By Conrad Jestmore

November's meeting was a delightful surprise, as twenty KWA members met at Collegiate Upper School to hear Tom Mach talk about historical novels. His presentation was not only informative, it was punctuated with his humor and wit, and we were all both thoroughly informed as well as entertained.

If you missed it, we not only were taught the distinction between historical versus period, we were given a blow by blow description of what it takes to research and create the accuracy needed to bring historical fiction to life.

After Tom's presentation, members discussed future changes to KWA meeting format. Be aware, that beginning in January, we will have board meetings prior to each general meeting on the third Saturday of every month. The hope is that rank and file members will come and get more involved in the decision making process that affects all of us. We even encourage you to consider serving on the board and being part of the decision process. Think about it. We could use your expertise.

KWA 2006 New Members

Denise Bale	Gary Miller
Connie Beckett	Kimberly Miller
Judy Dean Boredreaux	Anthony Myers
Raymond Boyd	Margaret Nichols
John Cleaver	Sallie Phillips
Martin Collins	Sandra Poneleit
Sonny Collins	Marquita Reeves
Greg Coykendall	Les Ruthven
Elaine Douglas	Jennifer Sparlin
Bill J. Fox	JoAnn Swearingen
Tracy J. Freeman	Kay Wallace
"Trudy" Graham	Jennifer Ward
Sara Jenlink	Angela Wilson
Robert L. Iles	Jody Wilson
Sam Kepfield	
Jack Limper	
Thomas Mach	

Writing a Successful Historical Novel: Workshop by Tom Mach

By Starla Criser

As Conrad Jestmore mentions in the President's Letter in this issue, Tom Mach presented a very informative program to KWA members at our November meeting. It isn't possible in this space to relate everything we learned, or provide you with all that he gave us as handouts. What I would like to do here is share some of the particulars about writing historical novels that I learned in the workshop.

Tom Mach has written feature articles, profiles, book reviews, poetry, and short stories for various publications. He won Honorable Mention for poetry in Writers Digest, the J. Donald Coffin Memorial Book Award for *Sissy!* a Jack London Award from the California Writers Club, and other awards for short stories, articles, and song lyrics. He has published two books in his Civil War trilogy. The first book was *Sissy!* and the second book was *All Parts Together*. The series is inspired by true events and is "a different kind of Civil War story."

To begin with, Mach explained the differences between historical novels and period novels. Historical stories are based on research, realistic, may use a particular setting, a historical event, and incorporate an actual person into the storyline. A couple of examples of books of this type are *Killer Angels* and *Red Badge of Courage*. Period novels are more loosely based on historical research, do not necessarily focus on any certain setting, event, or person of the time period involved. An example of this type of book would be *Gone With The Wind*.

When you write a historical novel, you should make the blending of any "real" characters or setting details and fictional characters or setting details smooth. The reader should not be able to tell where the nonfiction ends and the fiction begins.

Mach referred to researching the facts as "mining for gold," and the idea fits. He suggested that a writer only do the

research needed for the book he/she is preparing to write. It is easy to become over-involved in research and end up with a wealth of knowledge. What is hard is to restrain yourself from sharing too much of that knowledge with your reader. Focus on researching only what is needed for a particular book, or series of books.

Some general guidelines for researching include:

- Locale history (for setting details, language used, etc.)
- Visit the locale if possible (to get a real feel that you can bring into the story)
- Visit museums
- Explore old cemeteries (for common names of certain time periods, for epithets)
- Old newspapers
- Talk to knowledgeable people with expertise in the locale, the time period (such as museum directors, re-enactors)
- Read fiction written in the time period, see how they wrote, who the authors were
- Read footnotes in research books for additional sources or knowledge
- Reference books
- Internet (be careful to check the information with several sources at least)

Tom Mach's Six Plot Elements of a Novel:

Beginning—Grab the reader immediately

Subplots—Use for texture and plot advancement

Complications—Use as obstacles to the goals of your protagonist

Turning point(s)—Major event(s) posing an almost insurmountable complication for protagonist

Climax—How the protagonist tries desperately to overcome this huge hurdle

Resolution—What does change or may change the protagonist's future

An easy way to remember these six elements:

Be Sure Characters Transport Captive Readers

Reminders

Dec. 10 — Annual Writing Competition Awards Banquet

Jan. 20, 2007 —New KWA meeting schedule, beginning with a board meeting

Member News

Shelley Plett's freelance newspaper column "Parts of Speech" was changed from a monthly feature to a twice monthly in the *Hillsboro Free Press*. It was also picked up by the *Lindsborg News-Record* as a monthly feature. In addition, she sold a personal essay, "They Didn't Plan It," which was about her mother's 50th high school reunion, to *Senior Living Magazine* in Missouri.

Ralph Allen's short story, "An Armistice Day in August," received an Editor's Choice Award in the collection of short stories and poetry, *Our Heroes*, published by Weems Concepts, Artemas, PA, 17211.

Marquita Reeves had a recipe published November 8, 2006 in the 2006 Holiday Cookbook insert of *The Wichita Eagle*.

Starla Criser has sold her latest novella, *Mistletoe and Holly*, to her editor for publication in December on-line and then as an e-book.

KWA Members Who Shared News in 2006

Ralph Allen
 Sonny Collins
 Starla Criser
 Gary Cummings
 Bill DeArmond
 Arlene Rains Graber
 Sara Huter
 Conrad Jestmore
 Colleen Kelly Johnston
 Mike Klaassen
 Dr. Marilyn Lake
 Nancy Mehl
 Margaret (Peg) Morrison
 Sherry Phillips
 Shelley Plett
 Marquita Reeves
 Lois Ruby
 Courtney Ruthven
 Dwayne Smither
 Jennifer Ward
 Jodi Wilson
 James Wright

KWA Officers and Appointed Positions Job Descriptions

The election of officers and the appointment of key positions 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. 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.

Recording 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.

Newsletter Editor: Gathers information of interest to the membership and creates the monthly newsletter.

Promotions Manager: Arranges publicity for all KWA's needs.

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Ambassador: Represents and promotes KWA.

At-large Board members (2): Attend all Board meetings, provide input and volunteer time for the work of the organization.

Contest Coordinator: Coordinates all facets of the annual competition.

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

Membership Chairperson: Keeps the names and addresses of members, and the date of termination or resignation of membership.

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

KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Conrad Jestmore

VICE-PRESIDENT

Michelle Smith

TREASURER

Courtney Ruthven

RECORDING SECRETARY**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Starla Criser

starlakaye@earthlink.net

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Colleen Kelly Johnston

Brian Johnson

HISTORIAN

Arlene Rains Graber

PROMOTIONS MANAGER

Arlene Rains Graber

WEB SITE COORDINATOR

Angela Criser

CONTEST COORDINATOR

Colleen Kelly Johnston

AMBASSADOR

Gordon Kessler

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

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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