



Our Next KWA Meeting February 21

**Watermark Books & Cafe
4701 E. Douglas, Wichita**

2-2:45 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop The Writer and Income Taxes

It was great to see so many of you at the January meeting. We had a good discussion on plot with several members contributing experiences and suggestions.

The topic for the February mini-workshop will be income taxes. I have been preparing personal income taxes at H & R Block since 1998 and have achieved the title of tax specialist. I will begin the mini-workshop with a brief overview of taxes for the self-employed writer and then discuss some general tax law changes that sound wonderful but may not be around long. Finally, I’ll answer questions, first on writing and then other tax topics.

It isn’t necessary to send questions in advance, but it would be helpful for me to know your interests so I can put together information that matches your concerns. E-mail your questions to me at hi-hart@prodigy.net. Be sure to include KWA in the subject line.

3-5 p.m.

Publishing Your Book: From Final Draft Through Book Signings

A panel of KWA published authors will talk about all phases of the publishing process including finding a publisher or self-publishing, the pros and cons of each; ISBN numbers and Library of Congress cataloguing, are they necessary and what happens if you do not get them; setting up publicity and getting reviews.

Come and get your questions answered.

Our Mission Statement

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

New & Renewing Members

Renewals

Keith Boscher	Orville Voth
Starla Criser	Rachel Dayvault
Carolyn Desmond	

Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 4— “Scene of the Crime” committee meeting 6-6:45 p.m. at Borders East, 1715 N. Rock Rd. Contact Gordon at 685-0098 if interested.

Feb. 4, 18— Writers Support Group for beginning novelists, 7 p.m., Borders Books, 1715 N. Rock Rd. in the “History” section. Call Gordon at 685-0098 for more info.

Feb. 6— WWW Group (Women Writers Working, formerly Working Writers) is looking for new members. We are also willing to consider meeting other than Friday mornings. Any interested women are welcome to join us. Watermark Books lower level meeting room, 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 6. For more information, call Colleen at 684-7847.

Feb. 21 — KWA Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop on Taxes, 2-2:45 p.m. Regular KWA meeting, 3-5 p.m., Watermark Books & Cafe.

Feb. 26 — KWA Board meeting, 7 p.m., 1459 Homestead.

Feb. 20 — Newsletter deadline for March

Starting March 30 — Gordon Kessler’s “Advanced Novel Writing—the Bestseller” an in-depth study of what makes a “bestseller” and how to apply the techniques of “brand-name” authors to your stories. Classes on Tues. nights 6:30-9:00 pm. through April 27. Call Gordon for more info at 685-0098.

Market Place

Market News

Anne Rice, NYT best-selling author, has announced that *Blood Canticle* is her final installment in the Vampire Chronicles. She does not plan to write further books about vampires.

Los Angeles Times, 5 January, 2004.

Ray Romano, star of CBS television program, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, will have his first book for children published by Simon & Schuster for Young Readers. The book is due out this fall.

"Ray Romano to Publish Children's Book With Simon & Schuster." *The Write News*, 2 January, 2004. www.writenews.com

Michael Loh, a 39-year-old lawyer, holds the Guinness World Record for most letters to newspaper editors published in a year. From Aug. 2002 to Aug 2003, Loh had 212 letters published in four different publications.

"Lawyer makes Guinness Book as most published letter-writer." *The Straits Times*, 20 January, 2004. <http://straitstimes.asia1.com>

Michael Hawley, of MIT Media Lab, made publishing history December 2003 with the release of the largest book ever published. *Bhutan: A Visual Odyssey Across the Last Himalayan Kingdom* weighs over 130 pounds and stands five by seven feet. Each page image is nearly two gigabytes. Each copy of the book uses a roll of paper longer than a football field and over a gallon of ink. A limited edition of 500 copies were produced. The books were offered exclusively to patrons who made a \$10,000 or greater contribution to Friendly Planet, a non-profit educational charity.

"MIT's Michael Hawley creates world's largest published book." *MIT News*, 15 December, 2003. <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/nr/2003/hawley.html>.

Contests

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

Valentine or Love Poem: Deadline: Feb. 14. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

Short Article: Deadline: Feb. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any non-fiction subject suitable for a magazine or newspaper, 1,500 words maximum.

Winter or Snow Poem: Deadline: Feb. 28. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

Filler: Deadline: March 5. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Short prose (up to 600 words) on any topic, from humor to household hints, tips, original anecdotes, etc.

Hollywood Gateway Screenwriting

Contest. Deadline: Begin entering Feb. 29, final deadline is April 30. Entry Fee: \$40. Prizes: Winning entry to receive a \$5,000 cash prize, a 12-month option agreement, meetings with top agents and producers, transportation to Hollywood and accommodations, submission to top agencies and production companies. For more information, see www.hollywoodgateway.com/details.php.

The Washington Prize. Deadline: March 1. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: Winner to receive \$1,500 and book publication for a volume of original poetry. Submission: Manuscript of 48 to 64 pages. For more information, see www.writer.org/wordwork/washington_prize.html.

A Woman's Write Quarterly Writing Contest. Deadline: March 31. Entry Fee: \$7. Prizes: All entries receive a thoughtful critique. One winner to receive \$70 and be published on the web site. Submission: Story, essay, memoir or book chapter on the theme of "Resolutions." For more information, see www.awomanswrite.com.

Anthology Submissions

Sacred Water: Connecting with the Power and Mystery of Water. A book of true stories, reflections, meditations, and poems about the power and mystery of water in all its forms. Deadline: April 10. Contributors: Will receive one copy of the book to be published in June 2005. Submission: Stories written in first person, 500-1,500 words in length. Poetry limited to one printed page. For more information, see www.sacredfeathers.com.

Sacred Fire: Connecting with the Power and Mystery of Fire. A book of true stories, reflections, meditations, and poems about the power and mystery of fire in all its forms. Deadline: June 10. Contributors: Will receive one copy of the book to be published November 2005. Submission: Stories written in first person, 500-1,500 words in length. Poetry limited to one printed page. For more information, see www.sacredfeathers.com.

Stephanie Diepenbrock Typing/Editing Services

Fees: Typing \$1.75/page, proofreading \$2/page, typing and proofreading \$2.75/page.

Phone: (316) 685-6303

Bio: Colleen Kelly Johnston

By Colleen Kelly Johnston/Starla Criser

As far back as she could remember Colleen wanted to write beautiful words. She found such style yet economy of words in the works of Percy Bysshe Shelley and Walt Whitman.

Colleen began writing her own small pieces, which finally culminated in her winning a state-wide competition when she was a senior in high school. In college, her writing ceased to make space for science and math. She didn't pick up writing again until she began working at alternative weekly opinion journals in the 70s. She wrote one of the first consumer advice columns by women, later writing on women's issues and politics.

In 1993 Colleen gave herself five years to see if she would let writing take over her spare time. She has sold a couple of short stories and had poems published in *Mikrokosmos*, *Women of the Plains*, *Collage*, *The New Mexico Review* and others. Her chapbook *Stepping Stones, Moments in a Woman's Life*, memoirs in poetry and prose was published in 2001.

To date, she has not had any novels published, although she has a contemporary Western suspense novel making the rounds. Her novel *Triple Twist*, a suspense novel set in the Flint Hills, is in the works. She has picked up a novel and short story that she finished several years ago and set in Ireland. She has begun combining them into a romantic suspense.

Writing gives her satisfaction and pleasure along with a good measure of frustration. She finds that writing good poetry is much more difficult than writing good prose because it requires an economy of words to paint your pictures. You have to be willing to cut, cut, cut — sometimes your favorite phrases. But writing is the challenge. She is a typist; her words come through on a keyboard, not from a pencil or a pen. Without sitting down at the keyboard, it doesn't work for her and life seems unrewarding.

Colleen believes the key is to keep trying. Periodically she sends pieces to magazines and journals, though now that she is studying with Paul Haenel for a year, she had to agree not to send poetry out for publication until that year was up. She will have to depend on feedback from him and her critique groups. Colleen likes to say that she writes for herself, but the satisfaction that comes from publication can't be beat.

Although her family is very supportive, her dream of a perfect world is to be isolated in a cabin deep in the Rockies at least five miles from anyone else with just a laptop for six months. What words would sing. What work could be done.

Colleen has been a member of KWA for a number of years and was President in 2003. She has also coordinated the annual writing competition, and will do so again in 2004.

Stepping Stones: Moments in a Woman's Life. ISBN 0-9716181-0-0 is available from the Tyrone Roscommon Connection at TRCconnection@aol.com, \$9.95.

KWA Web Site News

The new web site is up and working, for the most part. There is some minor tweaking to be done yet, so be patient with us. You can find the site at the old address of www.kwawriters.com, although if someone types in kwawriters.org, they will also be taken to our web site.

The new site offers a main page with our mission statement, the calendar of upcoming month's events, and links to other sections of the web site.

This web site is planned to be a useful source for our members and other writers who visit the site. Along the usability line, you should be able to send an email to the appropriate officer or committee head with suggestions or news to share.

Once we get the site completely working you should be able to go there and see:

- Current member news, KWA news, the current newsletter in pdf format, and an archive of the past newsletters.
- Mentions and updates of upcoming workshops, such as Scene of the Crime.
- A listing of KWA published authors and links to their web pages, and links to other KWA members' web pages.
- News about the annual KWA Prose & Poetry Competition.
- All kinds of links to resources for writers.

Please check out the new web site and send any comments, suggestions, or problems you had to the Web Site Coordinator, Angela Criser, at web-site@kwawriters.com.

Writing Class

Phyllis Rowland, who recently presented a program on writing memoirs to KWA members, will begin a new memoir writing class. The class will begin Monday mornings from 10 to 12 p.m. at Watermark Books and Cafe, running from February 16 to April 5.

The class will cost \$40 for the eight weeks, and a workbook will need to be purchased for \$25.

Her company, Memory Catchers, can also now bind these books in either soft or hard cover, and in small quantities.

For further information, call Phyllis at 316-618-1099 or email her at phyllis@memorycatchers.com.

Yellow Brick Road to Publication Workshop 2004

The Wichita Area Romance Authors' annual workshop will be **March 20**, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Newman University, Eck Hall, Room 118. Registration fee is \$65, with a deadline of March 6.

Darlene Graham, a nationally recognized writing instructor and author, will present a 6-hour workshop on "Power Writing."

Carla Cassidy, an award-winning author who has written over seventy books, will be the luncheon speaker.

For more information and a registration form, see <http://www.angelfire.com/ks/WARA>.

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc Conference April 30-May 1

By Gordon Kessler

For anyone from this area, the OWFI's annual conference is one of the best. The OWFI gathering offers two days of topnotch speakers. It also facilitates networking with fellow writers, both published and aspiring, as well as editors from big NY publishing houses and big-time agents. It's your chance to see and listen to the industry professionals. The contacts you make at a major writing conference like this can last a lifetime.

The full two-day registration fee is \$100 if paid by April 15, and single day options are available. For more information, go to OWFI's web site at www.owfi.org (that's .org, not .com).

Carpooling and caravanning from the Wichita area is possible. Contact Gordon at gordon@gordonkessler.com for details.

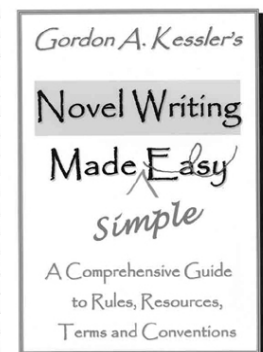
Kessler Offers Novel-Editing Service

I've consulted on, edited, assessed and critiqued hundreds of stories without advertising my services. That stops here. If you have a novel you would like edited or assessed, please email me at gordon@gordonkessler.com for details. A full range of services are available to suit your needs, including story assessment, writing consultation and line editing.

Kessler's Novel Writing Made Simple Now Available

After years of studying and teaching the novel writing craft, I've compiled into one book all the information I wish I would have known when I started writing seriously. *Novel Writing Made Simple* is an easy-to-understand study manual for the beginning novelist and a comprehensive reference and review for the experienced fictionist. It contains tools, rules and notions to help get novels started, completed and marketed.

This thorough novel-writing guide is coming soon to the local bookstores. Advanced copies are now available for a KWA member price of \$12.00 from my web site at www.gordonkessler.com or by emailing me at gordon@gordonkessler.com.





Pre-meeting workshop: Hazel Hart, Colleen K. Johnson, Vicki Hermes-Bond, Louise Pelzel, Starla Criser



Colleen Kelly Johnston reading.



Conrad Jestmore reading.



Gordon Kessler reading.

KWA January Meeting

By Starla Criser

Eleven members and guests attended the pre-meeting workshop on Plot, presented by Hazel Hart. The workshop provided us with some basic definitions and examples of plot outlines, story outlines, causal chain of events, and good endings. Hazel does a terrific job of leading the workshop and encouraging the attendees to actively participate with their own ideas and experiences. If you haven't attended these workshops, you're really missing out.

During the business meeting, Colleen Kelly Johnston, 2003 President, introduced the slate of officers for 2004. The following members were voted into office:

President	Suzann Robinson
V-President	Conrad Jestmore
Secretary	
Treasurer	Richard Walkup
Newsletter Editor	Starla Criser
Member-at-Large	Deanna Dahlem
Member-at-Large	Hazel Hart

The members present also confirmed Arlene Rains Graber as Historian, and Shelly Plett as Production Manager.

Starla Criser informed the members that the new web site was up and running, with minor tweaking still needed. Everyone was encouraged to check it out and to offer any comments or suggestions.

Gordon Kessler explained that the Scene of the Crime workshop will be a bigger event than in 2003 and that he is still looking for committee members. He also informed those present of the OWFI (Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc.) organization and their upcoming conference April 30-May 1. He will help with arranging carpools for anyone interested in attending the conference.

Colleen announced that the February program would be about publishing your book and the various phases of the process. Gordon announced that arrangements for a teleconference with Tess Gerritsen is being planned, possibly for the March meeting.

Following the business meeting, some of the winning works from the 2003 KWA Prose and Poetry Competition were read and enjoyed. Conrad Jestmore shared three of his poems: "Scary Biscuits," "Red Draw," and "Passing." Richard Walkup read his memoir, "Fifteen Seconds of Fame." Colleen Kelly Johnston read from her first chapter of *One More Time*, a romantic suspense. Gordon Kessler read his poem, "His Face" and from the first chapter of his novel *Jack Knight*. Colleen also read two of the winning youth entries: the poem "Loved Again" by Phylcia Foster, and the prose, "*Jimmy Capper*," by David Maddox.

It was announced that the anthology of the competition's winning entries will be published in March or April.

Writer Organizations

Horror Writers Association is a good place for those interested in that genre. They are the presenter of the Bram Stoker Awards and have a variety of benefits for members. www.horror.org.

International Women's Writing Guild is a network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. www.iwwg.com.

National Writers Association is a nation wide organization with chapters all over. They have a range of services available. www.nationalwriters.com.

Romance Writers of America is a non-profit professional/educational association of romance writers and other industry professionals. www.rwanational.org.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. is a good resource as an organization and have style guides. www.sfwaw.org.

Writers Guild of America is a tremendous resource site whether you are a member or not. www.wga.org.

The Alien Flower Poetry Workshop is very useful for those interested in poetry with extensive links. <http://alienflower.org>.

Coffeehouse for Writers offers resources, for pay workshops, and free critique groups. <http://members.tripod.com/coffeehouse4writers>.

4-Writers.Com and Writers' Village University is a combination of free areas and an online writers' group. <http://4-writers.com>

Mystic Visions is for writers of speculative romance, SF and fantasy. www.mysticvisions.com.

Writers Groups

Creative Writers Fellowship: Newton

A Christian writers organization.
Contact: Esther Groves, Secretary—316-283-7224
E-mail: estherg@southwind.net

Kansas Author's Club: Kechi

Mail to: PO Box 296, Kechi, Kansas 67067
E-mail for information: MrsAuthor1@aol.com

Kansas City Christian Writers' Network: Kansas City

Monthly meetings, contest, four one-day seminars a year.
Contact: Teresa Vining—913-764-4610
E-mail: KCCWN@aol.com

Kansas City Writers Group: Kansas City

Offer writers classes and critique groups.
E-mail for information: kamberg202@comcast.net

Kansas Fiction Writers Group: Topeka

A Topeka, Kansas chapter of Romance Writers of America.
Meeting Date: Third Saturday of every month EXCEPT July and December, noon for lunch, 1:00 p.m. for the program.
Place: Topeka Library
Web site: http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/resongon/KansasFictionWriters/

Learners Christian Writing Club: Medicine Lodge

Meet: Once a month
For information: PO Box 308, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

Mid America Romance Authors: Kansas City

A Kansas City area chapter of Romance Writers of America.
Place: Prairie Village Community Center, 77th and Mission Road. All meetings except the Nov/Dec meeting start at 1 p.m.
Web site: www.mararwa.com

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

A writing group that encompasses affiliate writing groups, including KWA. They offer a quarterly newsletter, a web site, an annual contest, and an annual conference in Oklahoma City, OK.
Web site: www.owfi.org

Prairie Inkwells: Salina

A creative writing group of serious writers dedicated to developing and improving their writing skills. New members are welcome. Workshop critiques. Public readings to develop presentation skills. Classes and exercises to improve writing skills.
Contact: Karilea Jungel 785-827-9556
E-mail: prairie_inkwells@hotmail.com

Wichita Area Romance Authors: Wichita

A Wichita chapter of Romance Writers of America.
Meeting Date: Usually the second Sunday of each month, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Place: See web site for location.
Website: www.angelfire.com/ks/WARA

KWA Members' Web Sites

<http://www.doncoldsmith.com/>

Don Coldsmith, author of many Westerns available as books and audios.

<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.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://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*.

Attention all published authors with listings in the KWA Members' Web Sites section: If you would like to update your listing, please contact Starla at starlakaye@earthlink.net. In addition, all of these listings are on the web site with links to your web pages. If you do not want to be linked, please let me know as well.

Member News

Starla Criser, writing as Starla Kaye, will take part in the 19 author Valentine's Day Book Signing at B. Dalton Bookseller, Town West on February 14, 1-3 p.m. She will be signing her book, *Tug of Love*.

James P. Johnston, co-writing with Jon Roe, had a book review on their recent book, *Flight From Dallas*, published in Nancy Mehl's column in *The Wichita Eagle* on January 18, 2004.

Gordon Kessler has published a book to help novel writers, *Novel Writing Made Simple*. The book will be available soon at local bookstores and advanced copies are now available for KWA members at a special price.

Ruth Scheer's newest release in her children's book series, *The Mouse and the Angel*, is now available from Scheer Delight Publishing. Wishing to write a Christmas story radiating truth and beauty to all mankind, in a moment of inspiration of November 25th, 1952, *The Mouse and the Angel* came into being. In a certain sense, it is a Cinderella story. But more than that, the Christmas star shows the power of God's love to bless mankind with the gift of His Son, the Savior, Baby Jesus. The book may be purchased through www.scheerdelightpub.com.

Irma Wassall, our 95 year old KWA member, recently had an article about her life and career published in *The WestSide Story*, September 2003. She has written more than 1,000 poems that have been included in various publications across the country. She was the founder of the Wichita Guitar Society and is still active in the group. Among her honors, she has been named the winner of the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from her fellow artists, winner of the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas Authors Club, and winner of the 2000 Kansas Governors Arts Award for Individual Artist in the Literary Arts.

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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 \$21.00

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

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236

Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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