



Our Next KWA Meeting

January 17

Watermark Books & Cafe
4701 E. Douglas, Wichita

2-2:50 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop on Plot
Hazel Hart

For everyone who’s made a New Year’s Resolution to finish that short story or novel, this workshop’s for you. We’ll start with a brief plot overview and handout and then go on to a brainstorming session for resolving plot problems. If you’re already great at plotting or just want to learn more about the topic, come and help your fellow writers brainstorm ideas for theirs.

For those of you who are stuck somewhere in the muddle, (Excuse me, middle.) of your story and would like to discuss the problem, summarize what your story in five sentences or less. Then, in another sentence or two, state the problem or question you would like the group to help you with. Finally, e-mail the information to me at hihart@prodigy.net. Be sure to include KWA in the subject line.

3-5 p.m.

2004 Officer Nominations

Winners of the 2003 Kansas Writers Association Prose and Poetry Competition will read their entries.

Our Mission Statement

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

New & Renewing Members

Renewal

Gilbert Nye

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 5, 19 — Critique at Starla Criser’s, 7 p.m., 9211 E. Harry, Apt 401. For info call 393-8195.

Jan. 7, 21— 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.

Jan. 17 — KWA meeting, 2-5 p.m., Watermark Books & Cafe.

Jan. 20 — KWA Board meeting.

Jan. 20 — Newsletter deadline for February

Jan. 20 — Gordon Kessler’s “Novel Writing 101—Intro to Novel Writing” class starts on Tuesday nights, 6:30-9:00 p.m., through February 17 at Butler County Community College, Andover Campus. For info call Gordon at 685-0098.

Jan. 21 — “Scene of the Crime Seminar” first committee meeting, 6 p.m. at Borders East, 1715 N. Rock Rd. **Committee volunteers needed!** Please contact Gordon at 685-0098 if interested, or come to the first meeting.

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

Fraudulent Agent News: Last December 15, someone posted news on a list about the death of agent Melanie Mills. They said she had been killed in a car accident in Europe. Others touted her a sweet and supportive agent and mourned her loss. The real scoop is that she faked her own death to evade fraud charges after she defrauded several clients/aspiring writers. She charged one man \$1000+ to clean up his manuscript, then later skipped to Canada. She's also wanted for the attempted murder of her mother. Melanie Mills is a pseudonym for 49-year-old Elisabeth Von Hüllessem.

(This news was passed along with approval on the RWA, Romance Writers of America® links as an HEAIndustry topic dealing with the importance of publisher and agent standards.)

US Poet Laureate: Louise Gluck

At a poetry reading October 21, Louise Gluck, former Vermont State Poet, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and numerous other awards, began her reign as United States Poet Laureate. Taking over the position from Billy Collins, Gluck said her first reaction was to take time "to get over her surprise."

Gluck is a very private person who shuns publicity. Her attitude is reflected in her poetry. Asked to give a short sample of her writing she quoted,

"Immunity to time, to change. Sensation
Of perfect safety, the sense of being
Protected from what we loved
And our intense need was absorbed by the
night
And returned as sustenance."

Gluck teaches at Williams College and has published nine volumes of poetry including *The Wild Iris* which won the Pulitzer in 1993. Her latest work, *October*, is due out April 2004.

Contests

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

Personal Essay: Deadline: Jan. 15. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Essay on any topic, written in first person and drawing on personal experience to make a point. Limit 1,200 words.

Children's Story or Picture book: Deadline: Jan. 23. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$60 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Short story or picture book for kids from 2-12 (Do not send art.) State targeted age group on ms.

Haiku: Deadline: Jan. 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Traditional or derivative forms.

Short Story: Deadline: Feb. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$40 second, \$25 third. Submission: General fiction up to 5,000 words.

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

Moondance 2004 Film Festival Competition. NEW Deadline: March 15, 2004. Entry Fee: Varies depending upon the type of entry. Submission: Copy of Screenplay, Play, Teleplay, etc., or a copy of a Short or Feature Film. For more information, see <http://www.moondancefilmfestival.com>.

Fifth Smiling Politely Very Very Short Story Competition. Deadline: Opened Oct. 18, 2003 and closes on April 18, 2004. Results announced June 18. First Prize: \$600 plus publication. The authors of the best entries received will be offered the opportunity

to have their stories published. To enter, go to www.smilingpolitely.com.au and click on "Competitions," then "New Competitions."

Library of Congress Calls for Personal Remembrances of 9/11.

In partnership with the Sept. 11 Digital Archive Project, the Library of Congress is launching a new interactive web site, "Contribute Your Story," accessible through a link on the Library's "Witness and Response" online exhibition at <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/911>.

"Contribute Your Story" offers online visitors the opportunity to submit personal stories, recollections, artwork or e-mail about the effects of September 11 on their lives and how the events have changed the country.

Special Speaker

Kansas Fiction Writers invites fellow writing groups to join in a joint meeting **May 8**, 11 a.m. at Stone Creek restaurant in Lawrence on W. 6th. New York Times best selling writer, Cathy Maxwell, will speak about career planning for every stage in a writer's career beginning with before they are published. A buffet lunch will be served before the speaker's presentation. For more info, e-mail Linda Madl at www.lindamadl.com.

Stephanie Diepenbrock Typing/Editing Services

Fees: Typing \$1.75/page, proofreading \$2/page, typing and proofreading \$2.75/page.
Phone: (316) 685-6303

Member News

Colleen Kelly Johnston has won a grant to study poetry online with Paul Haenel, author of *Farewell, goodbye, Say Goodbye* and other works.

KWA Web Site News

Coming soon, an updated web site at the same old address:
www.kwawriters.com.

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

Other sections will include:

- **About KWA:** Benefits of membership, a list of the current Board of Directors and key volunteers, and a printable membership application.
- **News & What's New:** Current member news, changes or news of KWA itself, links to the current newsletter and an archive of the past year's newsletters.
- **Workshops:** Scene of the Crime, and any other workshops put on by KWA.
- **Member Sites:** A listing of KWA published authors and links to their web pages, a Bookstore with links to where current members' works can be purchased, a listing of members' personal web sites.
(Note: Contact Starla Criser at starlakaye@earthlink.net if you want to have your web site linked with KWA's.)
- **Competition:** News about the KWA Prose & Poetry Competition.
- **Links:** Resources for writers, writing craft articles, self-publishing information, publishing information, other writer groups.

KWA Officer's Job Descriptions

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

The election of officers 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 Tuesday evening following the regular meeting. The following positions are open: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, promotions director and newsletter editor. In addition there are two at-large positions open. Nominations for any and all seats will be open at the meeting. A brief job description for each follows:

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.

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

Promotions Director: 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.

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

SPECIAL NOTE: At this time we are seriously in need of a volunteer for the position of Secretary. There are members running for all other positions, although additional nominees will be accepted at the meeting. If you are interested in running for any of the offices, especially for Secretary, please notify Colleen at Theshermit@aol.com.

2003 KWA Prose & Poetry Competition Winners

The Susan McKnight Prize in Free Verse

1st	Theresanna Manganiello	Sunday Drive
2nd	Conrad Jestmore	Scary Biscuits
3rd	Colleen Kelly Johnston	Early Winter
1st Hon. Mention	Conrad Jestmore	Passing
2nd Hon. Mention	Nancy Avery	Music Ambience for Now
3rd Hon. Mention	Conrad Jestmore	Red Draw

Traditional Verse — Rhymed Poetry

1st	Wes Rine	David's Burden
2nd	Marjorie Rine	The Sonnet I Perceive
3rd	Gordon Kessler	His Face

The Criser & Mardis, Chartered Prize in Creative Non-Fiction

1st	Patrick M. Latta	A Walk in the Sun
2nd	James Yoder	Bread of Blessing
3rd	James Yoder	The Interview
Hon. Mention	Richard Walkup	Fifteen Seconds of Fame
Hon. Mention	Arlene Rains Graber	Not a Problem
Hon. Mention	Julia Dagenais	Something about a Uniform

The Eric Pembrey Prize in Short Fiction

1st	Sarah Fogleman	Waiting Room
2nd	Grace Becker	The Magnificent Journey
3rd	Sarah Fogleman	Busy
Hon. Mention	Patrick Latta	Sangre de Cristo Moonrise
Hon. Mention	Patrick Latta	The Train Dodgers' Ball and Other Tales
Hon. Mention	Julia Dagenais	Twister

The Watermark Prize for First Pages of a Novel

1st	Gordon Kessler	Jack Knight
2nd	Sharon Jesik	Harrison Arms
3rd	Colleen Kelly Johnston	One More Time
Hon. Mention	Colleen Kelly Johnston	Triple Twist
Hon. Mention	James Yoder	Echoes Along the Sweetbriar

Young Writers Prose

1st	Alexandra Walston	An Unnecessary Chapter From my 30s Detective Novel
2nd	Allie Jones	Rain
3rd	Molly Saunders	Happy Halloween Kelly Plymouth
Hon. Mention	David Maddox	Jimmy Capper

Young Writers Poetry

1st	Patrice Hutton	a sunset's skeleton
2nd	Melicent King	The Sea of Grass
3rd	Alexandra Walston	The Technicolor Plea
Hon. Mention	Christine Bober	Far Away
Hon. Mention	Phylicia Foster	Loved Again
Hon. Mention	Chris Stanley	The Film



Dale German Award Winner, Richard Walkup with Gordon Kessler and Mark Leake (former winners)

KWA Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony

By Rachel Dayvault

In one mystical moment the Kansas Writers Association shifted its stance. By simply walking through the door at The Shadow, we were no longer a stalwart group that had always strived, but a skillful one that had definitely arrived.

This party had Class (note the capital “C”). You can’t beat soft lighting, colorful Christmas decorations, flowers, good music, a glass of wine, delicious food, (need I say cloth napkins?) and delightful people for an unbeatable mix.

The Awards Ceremony trotted right along as an impressive second half, and the photo ops were a stroke of genius.

Not that we haven’t had many high points in our past: the jaw-dropping conference during that first year, top-notch Scene of the Crime seminars, incredible speakers, and outstanding workshops. But did anyone wear a coat and tie to those? Did Nancy wear a holiday sweater we’re still coveting? I rest my case. Happy Holidays to All!



Competition’s First Place Winners



KWA Young Writers Winners



James and Colleen Kelly Johnston



Party attendees



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.sfw.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.

Member Bio: Conrad Jestmore

By Conrad Jestmore

My earliest recollection of literature and the power it possesses is from when I was five or six years old. I found a slim volume on a coffee table at a friend's house. It was of the Golden Book variety, but it told a tale in picture and in print of a young girl strangled with her own belt. I was horrified, and fascinated, and it haunted me for a long, long time.

Somewhere, at some point in time, I too, began to attempt to fascinate with words. The concept was exciting and exhilarating. There were skits of broad slapstick penned in the fourth grade and acted out for parents and neighborhood friends. Then, serious poems of brooding youth in high school. And of course, short story parodies and imitations in college. It wasn't until after, as an adult, I consciously made the decision to write "for real."

So, what does my "real" writing consist of? I enjoy writing memoirs, and Chalkdust Publishing recently published one online. I have attempted plays, one of which was honored by The Beverly Hills Theatre Guild as a quarter-finalist. But poetry seems to be my passion. The power of concentrated language and the immediacy of verse has that power of language that so captivated me when I was young.

But if poetry is my passion, my burst of energy, then my novel is my child, born of a long and tender care. The problem is (as with many budding novelists), I fathered the child, but no one wants to raise it. My agent assures me that there must be a place for it, but even she may be at the end of the options for submission. So, as most writers do, I keep trying to find the precious time to write, to revise, and to submit.

As I write rough drafts in long hand on legal pads or keyboard revisions on the computer, my collie dog watches in silence, bored, thinking that time could be better spent walking and sniffing the multitude of wonderful scents in the world. My wife thinks about how we will someday be rich when, "my ship comes in," ignoring my comments that there is no money in poetry or first time novels, so I scheme on how to confiscate her credit cards. Either way, I keep doing what we all do, writing.

Note: Conrad Jestmore is KWA's current vice-president. He has a bachelors degree in Speech/Theatre from Emporia State University and a masters in Theatre from California State University. Conrad currently teaches 10th and 11th grade English at Wichita Collegiate School. He has won numerous awards for his poetry with Kansas Authors Club, KWA, and ByLine Magazine.

Writers Groups

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

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 Author's Club: Kechi

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

Learners Christian Writing Club: Medicine Lodge

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

Creative Writers Fellowship: Newton

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

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

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/

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.

James P. Johnston & Jon Roe, author of *Flight from Dallas* from 1st Books Library.

<http://www.gordonkessler.com>

Gordon A. Kessler, author of *JEZEBEL* and an award-winning website, and *DEAD RECKONING*.

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

Bill MacWithey, author of varied genre books, short stories and articles. His site also features many writing tips.

<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://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*, and *Elephant's Trunk*.

http://www.stkittspress.com/authors/laurel_schunk/bio.html

Laurel Schunk, author of four adult mystery/suspense novels and two easy readers for second graders. She is involved with St. Kitts Press.

<http://www.SircoulombPhotography.com>

Carol Sircoulomb, author of poetic photography and Haiku.

<http://members.cox.net/bdtharp/>

Bonnie Tharp, author of several short stories and articles, is hard at work on her novel, *Feisty Fossils*

<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.

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KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ADDRESS CORRECTION
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