



## KWA Meeting

# July 15

Rockwell Public Library  
5939 E. 9th, Wichita

12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Query Letters

Mini-workshop on writing query letters presented by Starla Criser. Samples will be available. Bring your own query letters and any questions you may have.

1:30—1:45 p.m.  
Brief Social time

1:45—4:00 p.m.  
Synopsis Discussion

Starla Criser will lead a group discussion on writing synopses. Tip sheets will be available. Bring a synopsis (maximum 3 pages) that you would like read and discussed by the group. Bring questions and helpful suggestions to share with everyone.

## New & Renewing Members

### New

Sandra Poneleit

### Renewals

Sheri McGathy  
Nancy Mehl  
Betty Richards  
Marilyn Walkup

## Mark Your Calendar

**July 15**—KWA Meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m. mini-workshop on query letters; 1:30-1:45 p.m. social time; 1:45-4:00 p.m. round table discussion on synopses.

**July 20**—Newsletter deadline for August.

**July 20**—KWA Board Meeting at Criser & Mardis, Chartered, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Aug. 19**—KWA Meeting: 12:30-2:00 p.m. Workshop on playwriting and stagecraft presented by Misti Maynard. 2:00-2:15 p.m. social time. 2:15-4:00 p.m. “Maximizing Your Chances to Win a Writing Competition” presented by Colleen Kelly Johnston.

## PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

**Scene of the Crime** — October 20-22

Share your member news with the organization. Email your booksigning dates, your contest news, your publication dates, or other writing-related news to [starla@criser.com](mailto:starla@criser.com).

# Market Place

## Market News

**DLSIJ Press**, a women-centric publisher of ebook and paperback books in a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres, is seeking fiction 35,000 words and up. They are looking for short story collections, romance, historical fiction, mystery, fantasy, science fiction, humor, etc. Currently they are primarily looking for short stories up to 12,000 words for an upcoming anthology. The theme of the collection is alternative realities. Details at <http://dlsijpress.com/authors>.

**Saltwater Press**, an Australian publisher, is looking for romance submissions for three imprints. Rocky River Romance is for category-length romance of 55,000 to 65,000 words. Heart and Soul features new-age elements and themes of 75,000 to 80,000 words. Pash is erotic romance of 75,000 to 80,000 words. Details at <http://www.rockyriverromance.com/USA/submit.shtml>.

**A Cup of Comfort Anthologies** is seeking submissions for the following anthologies:

**A Cup of Comfort for Dog Lovers** needs stories on any experience or theme that demonstrates how a dog has inspired and/or enriched the life/lives of a human(s). Deadline: July 31.

**A Cup of Comfort for Writers** needs true stories celebrating the writing life on a number of possible themes. Deadline: August 31.

For all Cup of Comfort anthologies, payment is \$500 grand prize per volume and \$100 for all other stories published in the book, upon publication. Story lengths must be 1,000 to 2,000 words only. For details see <http://cupofcomfort.com/share.htm>.

## Contests

**ByLine Magazine Contests.** For more information on all of their contests, see [www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

**Short Story:** Deadline: July 10. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Fiction on any topic, up to 5,000 words.

**Summer Poem:** Deadline: July 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$10 third. Submission: Any style poem that captures the heat/essence of summertime.

**Short Humor:** Deadline: July 20. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Nonfiction or fiction; original material only. Funny prose, anecdotes, daffynitions. Anything goes. Maximum 800 words.

**Free Verse:** Deadline: July 31. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any topic or length, unrhymed.

**1st Chapter of a Novel:** Deadline: Aug. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$40 second, \$25 third. Submission: Opening chapter of an unpublished novel. Mainstream or genre; adult or YA audience. Maximum 25 pages.

### **Funniest Family Member**

Deadline: July 31. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$100 grand prize. Submission: Original and unpublished account that in up to 1,000 words relates in story form one specific occasion when a family member had you howling with laughter. Details at <http://www.readingwriters.com/contest.htm>.

**Circlet Press** is seeking submissions for Best Fantastic Erotica, Volume 2. The anthology will be a compilation of erotic stories for all the types of sci-fi or fantasy twist. Deadline: Aug. 15. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$500 first place, \$250 second, the remaining runners up will be published in the anthology for

the regular payments (between \$50-\$100 depending on length). Submission: Stories may be 1,500 to 10,000 words, but the ideal length is 5,000 to 7,000 words. Details at <http://circlet.com/GL1997.html>.

### **Scribes Valley General Short Story Contest**

Deadline: Aug. 31. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: Monetary awards based on participation. Top 2-3 stories published in next anthology. Submission: Short story of any subject up to 5,000 words. Details at <http://www.scribesvalley.com/guidelines.html>.

### **Travel and Transitions Big Travel Story Contest**

Deadline: Aug. 31. Prizes: Grand prize is a 2-week sailing adventure for two through the Greek islands. First prize is a 1-week accommodation in a 1-2 bedroom vacation suite at a variety of destinations. Second prize is a weekend getaway to Toronto. Submission: Travel stories about vacation memories. Details at <http://www.travelandtransitions.com/contests.htm>.

## Conferences

### **Juniper Creek Writer's Conference**

Date: July 14-16  
Location: Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, Nevada  
Cost: \$225, discounted hotel room rates available  
Workshops: Scene building, travel writing, selling to Hollywood, writing for hire, poetry, characters, and more  
Details at: <http://writing.shawguides.com/JuniperCreekWritersConferences>.

## How to Submit by Email

By Sara Huter

Your manuscript is double-spaced, one-inch margins all around, with the title, name and word count neatly tucked into the header. Your editor responds to your query: Email it to me, please. Great! But are the formatting rules different, you wonder? Very different. Whether a traditional print publication or an online one, chances are, you may have to submit your manuscript by email. And whether or not you follow accepted submission protocol may mean the difference between publication and the rejection pile.

1. When emailing a manuscript, NEVER send a manuscript as an attachment **unless requested**. We all know that unsolicited email attachments potentially contain computer viruses. Editors know this too, and your attached manuscript will likely be deleted, unread. However, if they do ask for an attachment, the normal formatting rules for print apply.

2. When submitting your manuscript within the body of an email:

a. Don't double-space your text. Most email software packages will convert back to single-spaced. Unlike printed manuscripts, single-spaced manuscripts are easier to read in an email.

b. Don't indent. Email software programs tend to lose tab spacing. Instead, double-space between paragraphs.

c. Bulleted or numbered material - If you use bullets, instead use a dash (-) to indicate a bullet. If you use outline format, that handy auto-numbering function will turn to gibberish in an email. Hand-type the number or letter (and don't indent).

d. Avoid underlines, bold, and italics. They may not translate. Instead, use the following to indicate these formatting types:

i. *Italics*: use an underscore on either side of the words to be italicized: \_italicized words\_

ii. Underline: the same as italics: use an underscore on either side of the words to be underlined: underlined words\_

iii. **Bold**: use asterisks on either side of the words to be bolded: \*bolded word\*

e. Quotation marks and apostrophes often don't translate in an email. Word processing programs "know" the difference between an opening and closing quote and will "curl" it correctly. In email, use only straight quotes and apostrophes. Turn off the "smart quote" option (in Microsoft Word, go to "Tools/AutoCorrect Options. Choose the AutoFormat tab and remove the check mark by clicking on the smart quotes option).

f. To see how your manuscript will look in an email, save it as a plain-text document (Microsoft Word: File/Save As and choose Plain Text in the Save as Type box at the bottom).

g. As a final safeguard, email the manuscript to yourself to see how the final version will look to your editor's eyes.

3. Of course, with any publication, always check their specific guidelines. Most will have submission guidelines on their website. To request them, you could send a polite email to the editor asking for guidelines or go the more traditional route and send a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope). As always, guidelines should be followed to the letter. If their maximum is 1,000 words, don't send a 1,001-word essay.

Source: A Quick Guide to Manuscript Format, by Moira Allen. [www.WritingWorld.com](http://www.WritingWorld.com)

## Some Word Fun

READ each word outloud SLOWLY...

Control:

A short, ugly inmate.

Counterfeiters:

Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

Eclipse:

What an English barber does for a living.

Eyedropper:

A clumsy ophthalmologist.

Heroes:

What a guy in a boat does.

## Book Review:

**Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers**, Mary Roach, W. W. Norton, New York & London, 2003. ISBN: 0-393-32482-6, ppb \$13.95.

Colleen Kelly Johnston

Ever looked for new ideas for your horror novel? Wondered what happens to bodies that have been donated to medical schools or science? *Stiff* is the book to read if you are looking for a sometimes grisly, largely sympathetic, very funny book on the uses for cadavers and what can happen to donated bodies.

Mary Roach, a columnist for *Salon* and *Reader's Digest*, deals with such contemporary uses such as stand-ins for crash-test dummies and practice for plastic surgery. then delves into historic uses for dead bodies such as dissection in medical anatomy classes and cannibalism.

While Roach does not specifically dig into forensics in her macabrely funny treatise, she presents a respectfully charming array of methods used over time to dispose of bodies that might not occur to the average writer of horror or mystery fiction. In her chapter "Just a Head" she details sometimes grisly 'medical' research. Similarly in "Life After Death," Roach writes about rigor mortis, the drop in temperature of a cooling body, establishing various chemical breakdowns of decay and in humorous sidelines, nudges the reader/student with bits such as

"what's going through my brain as I'm cutting through a liver and all these larvae are spilling out all over me and juice pops out of the intestines?"

From her first sentence –

"The way I see it, being dead is not terribly far off from being on a cruise ship. Most of your time is spent lying on your back."

– to the last paragraph regarding willing your body to a university medical school –

"You can't specify what (your body will be) used for; you go where there's a need. The majority of willed bodies wind up in the anatomy department. Almost none end up in the English Department."

– this book is not a dry medical tome. You will not be bored in any way, nor will you be horrified as many are by modern horror writers' texts. What the writer will get is ideas, many plot twists and turns. Roach is, at all times, quietly but outrageously funny throughout, such as when

she explains the effect of embalming fluids on human genitalia.

This is a book about dead bodies. It is well written with a strong beginning and a suitably conclusive ending – "Remains of the Author: Will She or Won't She?"

One reviewer suggests the book might have been better organized, but that is interestingly enough, a very negligible fault considering the topic. Does it really make any difference if the chapter on plastic surgery practice comes before the chapter on cannibalism? Roach includes an excellent bibliography, but if there is a credible fault to be found, it would be the lack of an index. This reviewer spent almost an hour trying to find a paragraph regarding the effect of layers of fat on the disintegration of a body.

*Stiff* is an excellent read; one might almost say it is a book you can't put down. That would depend, of course, in a few places, on the strength of your stomach.

## DaVinci Code Panel Meets

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

For writers, the real question raised by the *DaVinci Code*, is whether fiction should use real life historical people as characters thereby running the risk that doing so will lead readers into false beliefs and presumptions.

On June 1, Gordon Kessler, KWA Ambassador and novelist, Robert Beattie, attorney and author of *Nightmare in Wichita*, and Nancy Glenn, officer in Kansas Authors Club engaged in a spirited discussion of Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code*, recently out in movie theaters.

Sponsored by Inter-Faith Ministries, the Rev. Sam Myslenski, director of Inter-Faith moderated the panel discussion.

"People are attracted by secrets," said Kessler, and many of the readers take the book "too seriously," Kessler continued, some intensely "religious people have failed to accept the book as fiction." As admitted by the author, Dan Brown, the *DaVinci Code* is 99% fiction. Many readers, particularly religious devotees, forget that the concept of the novel is historical fiction, and become deeply involved and bridle at what they perceive as "lies" involving Jesus of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene.

Beattie related the principal points of the book's plot, a murder mystery in which the action unfolds in much the same plot line as Dashiell Hammet's *The Maltese Falcon*. As stated by Beattie, the point of the book is to reveal the motive of the murder, thereby unveiling the story of the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

Glenn told the interested audience that the book is an easy read which stimulates the reader to think and research. The book is controversial because it challenges traditional views of Jesus.

## Web Sites for Writers

### <http://www.book-in-a-week.com>

BIW is a site that connects writers by encouraging them to create writing goals for a week and write as much as possible during that time. It is also a place where writers can exchange information, publishing news, and kudos.

### <http://www.writingfix.com>

WritingFix is a site designed to spark a writer's imagination by way of interactive online word games, an interactive plot creator for working with settings, characters and conflicts, and much more.

### <http://www.internet-resources.com/writers>

Internet-Resources is a site that contains a large number of lists of writing links useful to writers. Excellent site.

### <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html>

Common Errors in English Usage is a large alphabetical listing of misused words. A wonderful step beyond grammar-checking.

### <http://www.boost4writers.com>

Writers Boost is a site designed to support children's writers with critique groups, testimonies of fellow writers, members' success stories, a forum to ask questions and share in discussions, and links.

### <http://www.smartwriters.com>

Smart Writers Journal is designed for children's writers. There is an online magazine, lists of writing markets and contests, and a directory of children's authors and illustrators available for book signings and public appearances.

### <http://www.fwointl.com>

Freelance Writing Organization-Int'l is a free online writing resource database containing searchable databases for markets, articles, contests and more.

### <http://www.journalistexpress.com>

JournalistExpress is a member site for reading hundreds of publications to find articles that might help with a topic you are researching.

### <http://www.writersweekly.com>

WritersWeekly is a freelance writing ezine with books and courses, articles, warnings, markets, a forum, and more.

### <http://www.momwriterslitmag.com>

Mom-Writers Literary Magazine is an online magazine that features writing by mothers on the challenges of motherhood.

### <http://allpoetry.com>

AllPoetry is a site for poets to display their work, advertise their website, find out about contests, and share in discussions about poetry.

### <http://winningwriters.com>

Winning Writers is a quality resource for writers and poets. It ranks and profiles poetry contests and sponsors a contest as well.

### <http://www.faithwriters.com>

FaithWriters is a site with a free membership to learn about and share information useful to Christian writers. The site lists freelance writing opportunities, lets you post poetry, stories or articles, has writer forums, and writing critiques.

### <http://www.romancedivas.com>

Romance Divas is a free membership site designed for romance writers with a blog, articles, tips, and much more.

### <http://www.romancejunkies.com>

Romance Junkies is a site for romance writers with contests and goodies, author lists, interviews, and chat features.

### <http://www.wordplayer.com>

Wordplay is a site where you can ask screenwriting-and move-related questions on message boards, read columns on all facets of screenwriting or essays from industry professionals working in Hollywood.

### <http://www.go-publish-yourself.com>

Go Publish Yourself is a resource for anyone thinking about self-publishing. It contains tips on creating an action plan, hints on the cost of self-publishing, the basics of self-publishing, and how and why to copyright your book.

### <http://seventhsanctum.com>

Seventh Sanctum is a tool for writers, games and artists. There are lots of links, contests, and things to offer inspiration for creating characters and settings.

### <http://www.anotherrealm.com/prededitors>

AnotherRealm has a comprehensive list of publishers, contests, agents and more.

## A Writer's Time: Ten Tips for Making the Best of Yours

By Chip Scanlan, The Pynter Institute  
National Writers Workshop, Fort Lauderdale June 25-26,  
2005; reprinted with permission.

- 1. Plan.** Know tomorrow's task today. Estimate how much time it will take. Then, tomorrow, keep track of the actual time it took to accomplish the task. Eventually, you'll understand the real time a task takes and be better able to deal with it. Axiom: everything you write will take longer than you think it should. Corollary: several things may take less time than you expect.
- 2. Schedule tomorrow's task.** The news dictates most of what we do, but we can take charge of the process. Control whatever you can during the reporting, planning, writing and rewriting. If the desk wants your copy at 5 p.m., make your deadline 4:45 to give you time to red the story aloud and make changes for clarity, accuracy, precision.
- 3. Focus early.** What's the story really about? In one-word, describe your story. Focus almost immediately. Be flexible: it may change as you report and write.
- 4. Write early.** You'll learn what you know and what you need to know. Write to guide the reporting. Write beyond the story early, then fill in.
- 5. Free write.** The key is velocity. You can control velocity. Instead of pondering each sentence, start typing. Get something down, and do it fast. If you want to be a better writer, *lower your standards*. Free writing is good because you're less invested in the words. It's easier to revise.
- 6. Hit the print button.** Get your story off the elegant, clean screen and onto the messiness of paper, which shows the reality of the writing. Read it aloud. Does it make sense? Does it answer the questions?
- 7. Divide your writing into various, brief sessions.** Write the end first, so you know where you're going. Write through the story quickly. Write in short intervals, then step back and edit and revise.
- 8. Set your own deadlines.** To revise, you need distance. Give yourself distance from the story by allowing time. You actually have multiple deadlines — idea, reporting, writing, revising.

**9. Make friends with a clock.** Use a timepiece to signal how much time you spend and have. If you know it will signal time's up, you can quickly write to meet the clock. Just give yourself 15 minutes to do this, 15 minutes to do that.

**10. Follow productivity expert David Allen's "two-minute" rule.** If you can do it in two minutes or less, *do it!*

### Resources:

#### Online:

<http://www.davidco.com> David Allen's Web site

<http://www.43folders.com> productivity website

<http://www.lifehacker.com> productivity website

<http://del.icio.us/tag/gtd> productivity bookmarks

#### Books:

*The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations and Books*, by Eviatar Zerubavel (Harvard University Press, 1999).

*Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity*, by David Allen (Viking, 2001).

*How Writers Journey to Comfort and Fluency: A Psychological Adventure*, by Robert Boice (Praeger, 1994).

*A Writer's Time: Making the Time to Write*, by Kenneth Atchity (Norton, 1994).

*Writing to Deadline: The Journalist at Work*, by Donald M. Murray (Heinemann, 2000).

*Writing in Flow: Keys to Enhanced Creativity*, by Susan K. Perry (Writer's Digest Books, 1999).

*The Modern Library Writer's Workshop: A Guide to the Craft of Fiction*, by Stephen Koch (The Modern Library, 2003).

## Vice-President's Letter

By Michelle D. Smith

At our meeting on Saturday afternoon, June 17th, Brian Johnson and myself presented a tutorial on Word and computers in general to an audience of about 25 people. With help from Gordon Kessler and Colleen Johnston, everyone was able to get their questions answered. Hopefully all of those in attendance are a little less afraid of their computers now.

KWA's Scene of the Crime conference is right around the corner, even if it doesn't feel like it! October is rushing up from behind us and the Scene committee would like to ask for your help to make this conference a success. We need at least 30 volunteers to help shepherd visiting speakers, including agents and editors, as well as other duties. This is an excellent opportunity to not only get involved but also to perhaps spend a little extra time with one of the speakers. Please contact me at bear-raven34@hotmail.com if you're interested in volunteering. You would only need to commit to a one to three hour shift.

I would encourage every member of the KWA to attempt to attend not only the conference but also our general meetings on Saturdays. Socializing with other writers and supporting one another is an important part of the writing life.

## KWA: 2006 Events

**August 19** Workshop on playwriting and stagecraft presented by Misti Maynard. The main program will be on Maximizing Your Chances to Win a Writing Competition by Colleen Kelly Johnston.

**September 16** Undetermined as yet.

**October 20-22** Scene of the Crime conference.

**November 18** Undetermined as yet.

**December 9** KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet.

## Member News

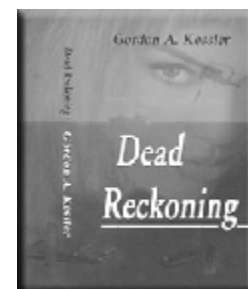
**Sherry A. Phillips** received an honorable mention for "A Contemporary Psalm of Lament" in the ByLine Magazine contest in the Poem of Loss category. The award was mentioned in the March 2006 issue.

## A Sample of KWA Members' Books



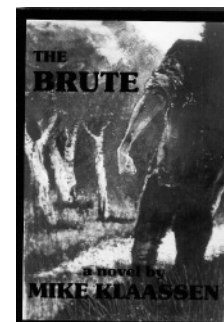
*Darkside of Madness*, an e-book collection of chilling tales by Bonnie Eaton, aka B. J. Myrick.

*Dead Reckoning*, "a catastrophe of enormous proportions in the making" by Gordon A. Kessler.



*Santa Wears Spurs*, a light erotic romance about a cowboy with a reputation as the best sweet-talker in the state who meets his match. Written by Starla Criser, aka Kay Starr.

*The Brute*, an action-packed teen novel by Mike Klaassen.



## KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Starla Criser

starlakaye@earthlink.net

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Arlene Rains Graber

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**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](http://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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KWA Meeting July 15, 2006

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