



# KWA Meeting

## November 18

Collegiate Upper School

12:30—2:00 p.m.

### Tom Mach

Workshop on Historical Novels

Tom Mach, author of two published historical novels, will present a program on “How to Write and Market a Historical Novel.” The workshop will cover everything from what is and what is not a historical novel, how to write a historical novel, doing the research, and marketing and promoting a historical novel.

Mach was an editor for *South Bay Accent* and for *Software Supermarket* magazine, as well as a staff writer for *Small Business Report*. He taught writing workshops at CWC, at Piqua Community College, and the Kansas Authors Club, and he also taught copywriting at San Jose State. He has had hundreds of articles published in national and regional magazines, such as *Writers Digest*, *Woman’s Day*, and *Jack & Jill*. He was a stringer for the Meredith Sun Newspaper Group and the *Business Journal*. His novel *Sissy!* won the J. Donald Coffin Memorial Book Award. He has received strong reviews from such prominent reviewers as BookWire, Kirkus, and Tregolwyn for his latest historical novel about Lincoln and Whitman in *All Parts Together*.

## New & Renewing Members

### New

Connie Beckett	Sallie Phillips
GF “Trudy” Graham	Marguita Reeves
Sara Jenlink	Les Ruthven
Jack Limper	Jennifer Sparlin
Kimberly Miller	Jennifer Ward

### Renewals

Julie Anderson	Kerry Johnston
Robert Beattie, Jr	Margaret Morrison
Leonard Biggs	Mrs. Harold Scheer
Hazel Hart	Irma Wassall
James Johnston	Shirley Wilson

## Mark Your Calendar

**Nov. 16**—KWA Board Meeting at Criser, Gough & Parrish, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 602, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Nov. 18**—KWA Meeting 12:30-2:00 p.m. Tom Mach will present a program on writing historicals. Collegiate Upper School.

**Nov. 20**—Newsletter deadline for December.

**Dec. 10**—KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet, The Shadow. More details to come.

**Jan. 20, 2007**—KWA Meeting at Rockwell Library. Board meeting (open to all members) 12:00-1:15 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. *This will be our tentative new schedule for most of the months in 2007.*

# Market Place

## Market News

**Premium Press America.** Lanier Brandau, Editor, is interested in romance and mystery stories featuring ethnic and multi-cultural characters. Submit manuscripts of 80,000-88,000 words, synopsis, and a cover letter to Ms. Lanier Brandau, Premium Press America, 2606 Eugenia Avenue, Suite C, Nashville, TN 37211-2177. Do not query first.

**Avon** is looking for a broad range of commercial women's fiction books, something different. Lucia Macro is open to query for women's fiction or romantic comedy.

**Silhouette Intimate Moments** is changing to Romantic Suspense in February 2007, still 70 percent romance and 30 percent suspense.

## Contests

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

**New-Talent Short Story:** Deadline: Nov. 10. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$25 third. Submission: Open to any writer who never has won a cash prize in a ByLine fiction contest. Maximum 5,000 words.

**Open Theme Poetry:** Deadline: Nov. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any subject, style or length.

**Personal Experience Article:** Deadline: Nov. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$45 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: An article which is based on the personal experience of the author and also offers insight or motivation for the reader. Limit 2,000 words.

**Narrative Poem:** Deadline: Nov. 30.

Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: A poem that tells a story. Any length 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.

### Moondance International Film Festival Competition 2007

Deadline: Early entries from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006. Regular entries from Jan. 1 to April 1, 2007. Entry Fee: Varies from \$15-\$75 depending on category. Prizes: Winners' and finalists' films are screened at the Moondance film festival. Winning screenplays, stageplays, librettos, TV MOWs, TV pilots and short stories are given staged readings at the festival. Winning film scores are played during the Moondance awards ceremony. Submission: See details at <http://www.moondancefilmfestival.com/02-Entry.html>.

### 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

### 14th Annual Winter Poetry & Prose

### Getaway

Date: Jan. 12-15, 2007

Location: Cape May, New Jersey

Cost: \$350 plus room

Workshops: Poetry, Beginning a Short Story, Memoir, Creative Non-Fiction, Finishing Your Novel, Song Writing, photography, painting

Details at <http://writing.shawguides.com/wintergetaway>.

### 8th Annual Winter Conference of SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators)

Date: Feb. 10-11, 2007

Location: Hilton New York, Manhattan, NYC

Cost: \$295 members of SCBWI, \$345 non-members

Workshops: Picture Books for Writers, Middle Grade Series, Mass Market Series, Fantasy, Nonfiction, Middle Grade and Young Adult, Graphic Novels, and more

Details at <http://www.scbwi.org/events.htm>.

## Literary Agent Blogs

### Miss Snark, the Literary Agent

[www.misssnark.blogspot.com](http://www.misssnark.blogspot.com)

### Dierdre Knight Agency

[www.knightagency.blogspot.com](http://www.knightagency.blogspot.com)

### Agent Kristen Nelson

[www.pubrants.blogspot.com](http://www.pubrants.blogspot.com)

### Bookends Literary Agency

[www.bookendsliagency.blogspot.com](http://www.bookendsliagency.blogspot.com)

### Agent Jennifer Jackson

[www.arcaedia.livejournal.com](http://www.arcaedia.livejournal.com)

### Agent Nadia Cormier of Firebrand

[www.agentobscura.livejournal.com](http://www.agentobscura.livejournal.com)

## Anthology Cover Contest Announced

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

The cover design competition for Words Out of the Flatlands—2007, KWA's annual publication of the winning prose and poetry, is now open for KWA members only.

If your art can be reduced or copied to an 8 1/2 X 11 inch sheet of paper, you are welcome to enter. Photographs, fabric, pen and ink, water color — all are welcome. Past covers, designed by Richard Walkup, Grace Becker and Conrad Jestmore have graced the anthology.

Covers can be in color or black and white. Designs must be submitted flat, preferably on card stock, although any paper is acceptable as long as it is not wrinkled. We must be able to convert it to jpeg format for the publisher.

**Deadline: November 30, 2006**

**Open to KWA members only.**

The winning cover will be used on Words Out of the Flatlands, 2007 edition to be published in the Spring. Designer / artist attribution will be listed with the anthology credits and will be announced in the January 2007 newsletter with the winners of the writing competition. An award certificate will be presented at the KWA Holiday Party and Awards presentation to be held at *The Shadow* on December 10. Also the winning artist/designer will be presented with an artist copy at the anthology presentation to be held at Watermark Books and Café.

Entries may be handed to any KWA officer (See back page of newsletter for complete listing.) Entries may also be mailed to KWA Cover Contest, c/o Colleen Johnston, 1459 N. Homestead Ln, Wichita, KS 67208-2409, or may be turned in at Scene of the Crime registry desk, or the November 18 KWA meeting at Wichita Collegiate School.

**Deadline: November 30, 2006**

**Open to KWA members only.**

## A Call for Kansas Poetry

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

*The Midwest Quarterly* (Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS), Jonathan Holden, (Kansas Poet Laureate) and [www.KansasPoets.com](http://www.KansasPoets.com) are pleased to announce a shared publication effort and call for poems for the summer 2007 issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*.

This special issue will be dedicated to Kansas' poet laureate Jonathan Holden and to Kansas poetry. The editorial goal is to create an issue filled with Kansas flavor and representative Kansas poets. The editorial goal is to create an issue filled with Kansas flavor and representative Kansas poets.

**Submission Guidelines:** Submit up to three (3) poems which represent your very best work. Previously unpublished poems that evoke Kansas directly or indirectly are preferred. However, all poems will be considered. All forms of poetry are acceptable. Freshness in writing and content is desired! Please avoid submitting cliché ridden and overly emotional poetry.

Include all your contact information, including telephone number and e-mail address. Also provide a short biographical/career profile. If submitting by US Mail, please include a SASE.

**Submission Deadline:** Friday, February 18, 2007.

For further information and submission details see website [www.kansaspoets.com](http://www.kansaspoets.com) or contact Greg German at [ggerman3@aol.com](mailto:ggerman3@aol.com).

**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.**

# 2006 Scene of the Crime Conference

Winners of the First Annual  
KWA's Scene of the Crime Short Story and Fiction Competition

## SHORT STORY CATEGORY

- 1st Place "The Drop" by Angela Wilson of Linn, MO
- 2nd Place "No Mercy" by Randall A. Martin of Topeka, KS
- 3rd Place "The Phantom at the Bottom of the Well" by Dr. Bill DeArmond of Winfield, KS
- Honorable Mention "Shoot Me" by Jon Roe of Wichita, KS
- "Happy Halloween" by Randall A. Martin of Topeka, KS

## FICTION NOVEL CATEGORY

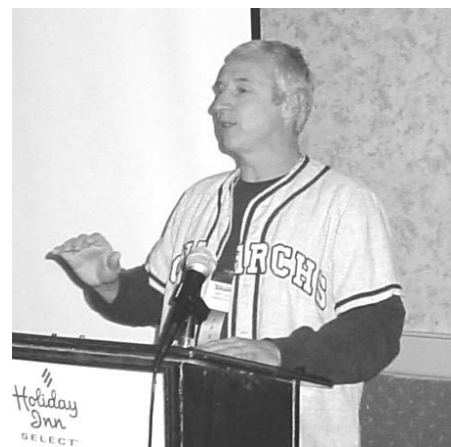
- 1st Place *The Winslow Incident* by SE Voss of Portland, OR
- 2nd Place *The Corpse at Cocktail Cove* by Kathleen M. Whelan of Portland, MN
- 3rd Place *Open Arms* by LuAnn Gerber of Onalaska, WI
- Honorable Mention *Dancing in the Dark* by LuAnn Gerber of Onalaska, WI



Larry Brooks, suspense/thriller author



Linda Landrigan, editor-in-chief of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*



David Sterry, book doctor and writing coach

## .Scene of the Crime Conference— 2006

By Arlene Rains Graber

It was just a year ago that Gordon Kessler proposed KWA's first two-day Scene of the Crime Conference. Board members rolled their eyes, questioned, then with pioneer spirit and positive encouragement gave their blessings. Kessler gathered his committee together and barreled forward. Twelve months later, the conference placed KWA as a serious contender in the field of conferences around the country, and was a huge success.

Two full days of concurrent fact and fiction tracks, with seventeen speakers gave a seventy-two-writer audience a jump start to their individual creative writing projects. Six agents listened while writers promoted their books, hoping for a sell. Linda Landrigan, editor-in-chief, of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, coached her audience to "narrow the focus on something that can explode out." Larry Brooks, a noted suspense/thriller author of *Bait and Switch*, gave a three-hour course on the four corners of the story, and drilled that "the character drives the bus—they're not on it." Local Crime Novelist Gaylord Dold told about the perils of rejection and what to do about it.

On the fact side, Homicide Lt. Ken Landwehr, Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Mary Dudley, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Dan Fahnestock, Kim Parker and Sexual Assault Nurse, Diana Schunn covered procedures and rules of the crime scene. Bestselling author Robert Beattie gave his audience tips on how he wrote *Nightmare in Wichita: The Hunt for the BTK Strangler*, and Lee Lofland, CSI and police procedure's expert gave a lively presentation on weapons and the world of the crime scene investigation. Wichita's district attorney and keynote speaker, Nola Foulston, had her audience crying one minute and laughing the next at the banquet.

Book doctor and writing coach David Sterry gave private consultations on a first-come basis and the agent/editor appointments sent several writers swelling with pride as they were asked to send them their novels. At the conclusion of the banquet contest winners from five states went home with cash.

Attendees mingled with agents/editors and presenters in a one-on-one casual setting during the mixer on Friday evening, and a dramatic candlelight banquet on Saturday evening.

Feedback from attendees banished any thoughts of too

much work from the committee as we all begin to work on the next one. The letter below is just one of many that said it all.

*The conference was wonderful. I am pleased that I came. The criminal aspect was fascinating. You couldn't have put together a better program. Hats off to you for all of your hard work making this event a reality and for the insight to get great speakers and have them compliment each other so beautifully. If every conference is as good as this year — you will always have success! I had no problem with the registration, and everyone involved with the conference was friendly and helpful. I didn't feel like I was an outsider. Speaks well for your team.*

*Thanks so much for your help in every aspect of the conference. Truly enjoyable and a great learning experience. Best regards, Wanda Billbe  
Norman, OK.*

*I truly appreciate your hospitality and attention to every little detail. Everything went smoothly. I'm hopeful some book projects will come from the talented writers I met. Debbie Carter, NY Literary Agent & Owner, Muse Literary Management.*

(And that's what it's all about, now isn't it.)



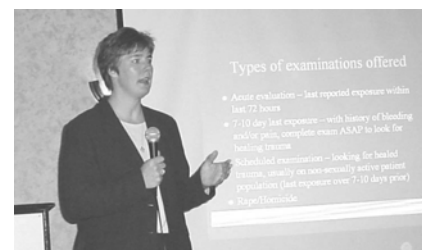
Nola Foulston



Dr. Mary Dudley



Lt. Ken Landwehr



Diana Schunn

## National Novel Writing Month

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

November is National Novel Writing Month. You still have time to go to [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org); sign up and get started. I'm crazy? A novel in a month, particularly a month with a major holiday in the way. No, not crazy, just determined and finding that total commitment is the only way to go.

Intrigued? All you have to do is commit to writing 50,000 words between midnight October 31 and midnight November 30. While I can't say it was the easiest task I have ever set myself, it wasn't nearly as impossible as I initially thought it would be. Granted, it took a subversion of other jobs on my on-running to-do list. But I didn't ignore my family at Thanksgiving and when I finished — on the 29th — and sent off my story to the website, I was elated. Besides that, I ended up with a suspense novel which was worth working on. Yes, it had problems, but I had a list of those I made as a sidebar in the draft I had just finished.

Taking part in the undertaking had benefits,; I learned to focus totally on one piece of writing, taught myself the ability to keep a short outline of upcoming scenes in mind, and kept track of possible plot twists. In addition, encapsulating the novel-writing into such a short period, kept immediately in front of me all the characters and allowed me to expand their personalities without losing track of what I had already built into them, a feat I sometimes lose when working over a year's spread of time. It was extremely effective for enlivening subordinate characters.

I was also able to avoid meltdowns which come with those should-I-go-this-way or maybe-I-need-to-let-this-happen stalemates in plot development. I didn't have time for snares. Fleeting time forced me to plunge ahead.

NaNoWriMo gives the aspiring novelist all kinds of assistance from writing advice to funny stories, inspirational blurbs and suggestions on plot twisting, etc. etc. The crew on staff go out of their way to help each participant complete their 50,000 word pledge and get it logged on by the deadline. The Kansas WrMo rep is Lissa in Topeka. She is ready to help you out with a packet of materials. Contact her at [lysisstratagirl@yahoo.com](mailto:lysisstratagirl@yahoo.com).

This isn't as scary as it sounds, not as intimidating. Ready to become part of the contingent? Sign up now by clicking the "Sign Up Now" link at the top of the website. This will register you as a NaNoWriMo participant and create a basic author profile and account for you on site. Create a profile

for yourself, if you want. You will at least want others to keep track of the constant increase in words of your novel. Then write like crazy for the rest of the month. Crib hours early in the day and late at night. Type a paragraph in between waiting for your dinner to prepare. Keep a notebook with you and jot down catch phrases while you wait for the traffic light to change. Oops, no, that's a bad idea. But you catch the notion. When stuck, go to the website and query one of the many forums for ideas from other members.

Now, stock up on caffeine and chocolate and get started. Don't think about it, just sit down at your keyboard or yellow pad and write.

## Free Poetry Shoptalk Session

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

The final program in this year's popular KANSAS Poets SHOFTALK SERIES featuring Kansas Poet Laureate, Jonathan Holden and guest poet Denise Low, author of *Words of a Prairie Alchemis* will take place November 7 at Wichita State University from 7:30 to 8:30p.m. The discussion topic will be "the differences between poetry and prose."

Everyone interested in poetry is invited to participate, including college and high school teachers and their students. Shoptalk provides an opportunity for open discussion and education related to Kansas poets and their poetry.

This live TELENET-2 video conference broadcast is free at 23 locations across Kansas. Locations include: Arkansas City, Belleville, Chanute, Colby, Concordia, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Independence, Leavenworth, Liberal, Manhattan, Marysville, Overland Park, Pittsburg, Pratt, Salina, Sublette, Topeka and Wichita. In Wichita, the session will be held at the WSU Media Center located behind Ablah Library on the east end of the campus.

To reserve your seat... Call Now! Toll Free: 1-866-379-2279 or E-mail: [t2net@ksu.edu](mailto:t2net@ksu.edu).

## Subjectivity

By Brian Johnson

No other word can mistreat or harm a writer's pride more. The dictionary refers the meaning of this word as moodily introspective, or proceeding from or taking place in a person's mind rather than the external world. It can turn an acceptance of your hard fought work into a simple form rejection or an e-mail that says, "No thanks, or I wouldn't touch this with a ten foot pole."

Gordon Kessler taught me that this is our burden as writers. That this rejection deflates us and causes us to doubt our personal creations and abilities, until we become immune to the process and our rejection letters become the scratch paper in which we print our new 150,000 poetic epic about the "Secret Lives of Trains" upon. The other side effect is it makes us better, makes us look upon our projects in a different light and make some hard decisions that were impossible before. It makes us say, oops, you're right, that last part wasn't funny and did offend most of the Midwest.

Winter is coming and if you're like me, the eyes are adjusting to the falling light outside and to the phosphorescent glow of the computer monitor. Don't let doubt creep into your mind as you write or you will find creativity getting bogged down and the muse taking a vacation.

Write, write badly if you need to. Then listen to what people say, especially if several people repeat it.

Read books, let others read your projects, do contests, and join a critique group and let other writers take a stab at it.

Most of all keep writing.

## KWA Elections 2007

Watch for job descriptions of the KWA officers in next month's newsletter. If you are interested in running for an office, contact any of the current board members. If you are interested in learning about other volunteer opportunities within KWA, again, contact one of the current board members. In the near future the board will be sending out a survey to all KWA members to get feedback on what the organization currently offers, and areas for us to do better in or expand to.

## Member News

**Gary Cummings** won first place in the Watermark Writers' Humor Essay Contest held in Vaughn, Washington and judged by Gordon Kirkland. He won \$300 for his entry, "The Mustang Ranch."

**Arlene Graber** won second place in the Kansas Authors Club Literary Contest for a feature article, "Worms Interest This 21-Year-Old." She also has an article in the *Kansas Traveler: Kansas Underground Salt Mines*.

**Dr. Bill DeArmond**, Professor of Mass Communications and Film at Southwestern College in Winfield, has his poem "The Quiet" in the latest edition of *Outer Darkness: Tales of Horror and Science Fiction*, published out of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He also won third place in the KWA Scene of the Crime Contest Short Story category with "The Phantom at the Bottom of the Well." In addition he had other successes at the conference with Loretta Barrett taking a copy of his book *Serving Compassionate Conservatives* and asking him to send *The Book of the Spirit* to her. Linda Landrigan showed interest in his short story and several other stories. Merriam Goderich asked him to send both books to her for consideration. And Debbie Carter took *Serving Compassionate Conservatives*, his two collections of short stories, and asked him to send her five stories he has written for his third collection.

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

**Courtney Ruthven** was in a play at Wichita State University's Wilner Auditorium the first weekend of November. She performed in a one act opera called "Eve's Odds."

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## Dale German Award

The Dale German Award is KWA's highest honor. It is given to the person who most exemplifies our mission statement: to inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer. The winner receives a beautiful plaque and a lifetime membership to the Kansas Writers Association.

Nominations are open for the **2006 Dale German Award** for someone who has given "above and beyond" in work for the KWA. Deadline: December 5.

Written statements not to exceed 250 words, stating the nominee's name and reason for nomination are accepted by writing to KWA Nominations, PO Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201.

## KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**RECORDING SECRETARY****NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Starla Criser

starlakaye@earthlink.net

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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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Next KWA Meeting: November 18

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ARTICLE—New and Renewing Members**

**ARTICLE—Market News, Contests, Conferences**

**ARTICLE—Anthology Cover Contest Announced**

**ARTICLE—A Call for Kansas Poetry**

**ARTICLE—2006 Scene of the Crime Conference**

**ARTICLE—National Novel Writing Month**

**ARTICLE—Free Poetry Shoptalk Session**

**ARTICLE—Subjectivity**

**ARTICLE—Member News**