



Our Next KWA Meeting

April 17

****New Meeting Place****

**Rockwell Public Library
5939 E. 9th, Wichita**

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop: The Pros and Cons

See pg. 5 for the details on the workshop.

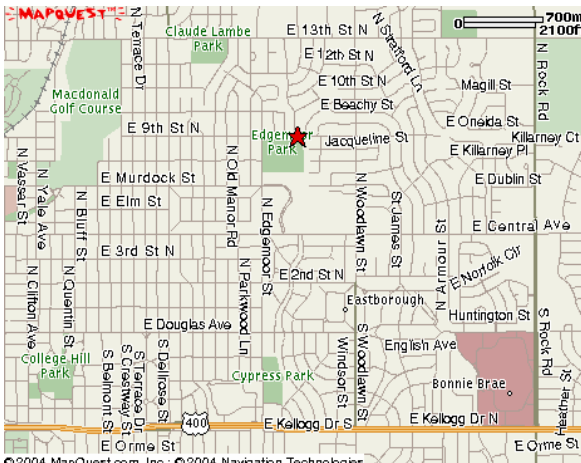
2:30-3:00 p.m.

Social Time

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Poetry. Why Bother?

April is National Poetry Month. Why do we write poetry and what do we look for in other’s work? Come and join us as Sandra Stonecipher, Conrad Jestmore, Colleen Johnston and other poets will read some of their own verse and that of others.



Our Mission Statement

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

New & Renewing Members

New

William Brian Johnson

Renewals

Bernell Baldwin	Louise Pelzl
Victoria Hermes-Bond	Stephen Swenson
Nancy Breth	Linda Graves
Jeanette Shepler	

Mark Your Calendar

April 7— “Scene of the Crime” seminar committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Borders East cafe. For details contact Gordon at 685-0098 or by email at gordon@gordonkessler.com

April 7— GK Brainstormers, Gordon’s novel-writing support group, 7:00 p.m. in the “History” section at Borders East. Open to all. For details contact Gordon at 685-0098 or email at gordon@gordonkessler.com.

April 8— Domestic Violence Awareness Poetry Reading. Watermark Books, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by StepStone.

April 9 and 23— Women Working Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

April 10 — Kansas Writers Association contest winners. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas, 4 p.m. Reading and book signing.

April 17 — KWA Pre-Meeting Mini-Workshop on Subplots and Parallel Plots, 1-1:45 p.m. Regular KWA meeting, 2:15-4 p.m., Rockwell Public Library.

April 22 — KWA Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., 1459 Homestead.

April 20 — Newsletter deadline for May.

Market Place

Market News

J.K. Rowling: "In a fairy tale as fantastic as her popular 'Harry Potter' series, former welfare mother J.K. Rowling makes her debut on the *Forbes* list at 552."

This is from the new *Fortune* magazine list of the *Fortune* wealthiest.

Vintage Romance Publishing is a start-up company specializing in nostalgic romances set in the early to mid-Twentieth Century. They are interested in working with published and unpublished authors. www.wrpublishing.com

Echelon Press is an alternative market for short stories in a variety of genres, which markets short stories as downloadable for a dollar. The author receives a 50% royalty on each downloaded story. They are seeking stories from 5,000 to 15,000 words in length, and are particularly interested in mystery/thrillers and paranormal stories. They also have a Notable Novella program for 15,000 to 50,000 word stories. For more information and guidelines: www.echelonpress.com.

Harlequin is developing a new category line called Prime Time, also referred to as 'hen lit.' The stories will feature slightly older heroines, focus on their struggles, and have romantic elements. They are looking for manuscripts 80,000 to 85,000 words in length. Gail Chasan is the editor in charge of the program.

Cat or Dog Story: If you have a true story, article or anecdote about dogs or cats, consider submitting it to the upcoming *Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover's Soul* books for release in autumn of 2005. For information go to www.yourpetstory.com.

Contests

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

Spring Poem: Deadline: April 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length, connected in some way with the season

How-To or Profile Article: Deadline: April 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Nonfiction that explains how to accomplish some goal or task; or a profile of a person, place, event or era.

General Poetry: Deadline: April 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$60 first, \$30 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style, subject or length poetry.

New-Talent Short Story: Deadline: May 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$25 third, \$15 fourth. Submission: Open to any writer who never has won a cash prize in any ByLine fiction category. Maximum 5,000 words.

The 26th Nimrod Hardman Awards: Deadline: April 30. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: \$2,000 first, \$1,000 second. Submission: Short story up to 7,500 words; poetry 3-10 pages in length. For more information see www.utulsa.edu/nimrod.

Writer's Digest 73rd Annual Writing Competition: Deadline: May 15. Entry Fee: \$10 first poem, \$5 each additional poem; \$15 first manuscript, \$10 each additional manuscript. Prizes: Grand Prize—\$2,500 and choice of trip to New York City to meet with agents or a trip to the 2005 Maui Writers Conference; \$1,000 first

in each of 10 categories; \$500 each second; \$250 each third; \$100 each fourth; \$50 each fifth. Submission: 10 categories. For information and rules see www.writersdigest.com/contests/writing_comp04.asp.

Conferences

Moondance International Film Festival 2004: May 28-30

Location: Chautauqua Park, Boulder, Colorado

Cost: all of the events, films, workshops, etc., are on an a la carte basis where you can register and pay for just what you want. You can also pay to have a screenplay critiqued. For more information see www.moondancefilmfestival.com.

The Twentieth Annual Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop: July 17-24

Location: Chautauqua, New York
Cost: \$1,685 for first-time conferees (before April 15).

A conference presented by children's publishing experts and award-winning writers that offers seminars, break-out groups, and intensive one-on-one sessions with professionals. For more information see www.highlightsfoundation.org.

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

Don Coldsmith

by Don Coldsmith

Don Coldsmith has written more than forty books, 150 magazine articles, and 1700 syndicated newspaper columns over the last thirty years. There are now some six million copies of his historical Western novels in print, as well as British, German, and French editions. Most relate to American Indian themes.

Born in Iola, Kansas, to a Methodist minister's family, Coldsmith graduated from High School at Coffeyville, and entered the Army in 1944. He served as a combat medic in the Pacific in World War II, and was among the first troops to enter Japan after the war's end. He was assigned the primary medical care of about forty of the upper echelon war crimes prisoners, including Premier Hideki Tojo.

Returning to school, he graduated from Baker University in 1949. Working as a YMCA youth director, he initiated the first interracial swimming in Topeka, Kansas, in the same school district as the now-famous "Brown vs. Board of Education" case, but somewhat earlier. After a taste of several other vocations he returned to school again, earning a doctorate in medicine in 1958. He served for thirty years as a physician in Family Practice in Emporia, Kansas, delivering nearly 3,000 babies. He closed his office in 1988 to devote more time to his writing.

Coldsmith is a Past President of Western Writers of America, and teaches in the Division of English, Emporia State University. He has been a finalist six times for the Western Writers' Golden Spur award, and won the Spur for best original paperback of 1990, *The Changing Wind*. He was chosen Distinguished Kansan of 1993 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas, received the Edgar Wolfe Award for lifetime contribution to literature in 1995, and was inducted into the Writers Hall of Fame of America in 2000. He was listed among the twenty most important writers of the 20th Century by his fellow professional writers of the West in the same year. His novels have been chosen by Book-of-the-Month Club and by Doubleday Book Club. In 2003, he received the Western Writers' Owen Wister Award for lifetime achievement in his depiction of the Historical American West. Current are *The Long Journey Home* (Forge), *The Pipestone Quest* (Oklahoma U. Press and Bantam), and *Follow The Wind* (Forge, reprint).

He is a popular speaker and lecturer on the Great Plains, and the lore and literature of the American West, and is a member of the Speakers' Bureau for the Kansas Humanities Council. He and his wife, Edna, also maintain a small ranching operation, and have raised cattle, Appaloosa horses, and five daughters, not necessarily in that order.

Editor's Note: I apologize to Mr. Coldsmith and other Western writers for my unintentional "snubbing of the Western genre" in last month's newsletter. It has been pointed out to me that my comment about the genre not being as popular as it once was is erroneous. Please read Coldsmith's factoids about the Western genre on page 4.

Web Sites for Western Writers

Shoe History: A history of the Western boot, with some photos.
www.shoeinonet.com/aboutshoes/history/historywesternboots/historywesternboots.htm

19th Century Gambling & Gaming: History and rules about saloon gambling in the Old West.
www.bcv.net/faro/gamgling.htm

Horses: A quick look at the breeds of horses.
www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/Horses-w.htm

Development & History of the American West: A little information on a number of topics, including cowboys, events, expansion, "Indians," mining, outlaws, and places.
www.americanwest.com/

History of the Old West: Journal of the Old West with chuckwagon lore, western music, cowboy stories and songs, recipes, and more.
www.lonehand.com/

Western Wear: A site with links to a number of categories including clothing stores, rodeo, horses, cattle, and much more.
www.cowboys.com/westernwear.htm

Cowboy Definitions and Lingo: A site with some of the many sayings for chow calls, holding the saddle horn, whiskey, working lingo and more.
www.theoldwestwebride.com/txt2/def_lingo.html

Rodeo Chatter: A site for common rodeo terms and definitions, and lingo and definitions.
<http://cyberrodeo.com/guysgals/chatter.htm>

Western Genre Markets

Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Looking for nonfiction Americana, fictional Westerns. Query first. Looks at first time, unagented and agented authors. Pays 10% royalty on retail, offers advance.

Web Site: www.simonsayskids.com.

Electric Works Publishing

Looking for fictional Western. Electronic submissions only. Majority of books are from first time and unagented authors. Pays royalty on wholesale price.

Web Site: www.electricpublishing.com

Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine

Looking for fictional Westerns, maybe serialized fiction. Length: 500 to 12,000 words. Pays \$10-\$50 on publication. 98% freelance writers.

Web Site: www.fmam.biz

New American Library

Looking for fictional Westerns. Query first; agented submissions only. 30-40% from first time authors. Pays negotiable royalty.

Web Site: www.penguinputnam.com

New Victoria Publishers

Looking for fictional Western, particularly with strong feminist characters and strong plot and action. 50% of books from first time authors; large percentage of unagented writers. Pays 10% royalty.

Web Site: www.newvictoria.com

Pruett Publishing

Looking for nonfiction Americana (Western), history (Western). 60% of books from first time authors; 95% from unagented authors. Pays 10-12% royalty on net receipts; offers advance.

Email: pruettboks@aol.com

The Western Genre

By Don Coldsmith

Western Writers of America (WWA) is composed of some 400 members, about half of which are fiction writers. Active membership requires three commercially published books, or a comparable volume of short subjects, fiction or nonfiction. All are using the same historical source and research material, whether writing fiction or not.

It may be worth noting that such notables as Mark Twain, O. Henry, and John Jakes (a current WWA member), have been "Western" writers.

A few Factoids:

Since WWII, Westerns have been awarded more Pulitzer Prizes than any other genre.

The story of the historical American "West" is not, and was never, limited to the 20 years after the Civil War. James Fenimore Cooper's West was in New York and Pennsylvania, Zane Grey's in Ohio. One of the most famous of the "Westerns," *The Man From Snowy River*, takes place in Australia. Jack London's "West" was Alaska.

Time period: In the past forty years, novels of the West have been dated anytime from the hunters of hairy mammoths in North America, to contemporary settings. There have never been any strict time restrictions. One of Louis L'Amour's last novels involved a Native American pilot of a U-2 spy plane, shot down over Siberia, surviving on his traditional tribal heritage.

Strong, capable women, a rarity until modern times in most genre forms, originally were in the Western, too. No Longer. A strong woman was obviously a great asset on the frontier, and still is. (Many of my own readers are women. We write the kind of characters we like, and I'm partial to smart, capable women. Several of my books have female main characters.)

In my own work, more than forty historical Western novels, only two involve cowboys. Time period in my Spanish Bit Saga series, 32 books and growing, ranges from 1542 to about 1800 so far. One book, *Runestone*, outside the series, involving Vikings in North America, takes place in the 11th century (documented historically, very popular in Denmark, in German translation). Another, *The Long Journey Home*, depicts 1900 to 1936, through the eyes of an American Indian boy in Government schools.

Many universities offer "Literature of the American West" courses. I teach one at Emporia State, for the past 18 years. Many University Presses are publishing both fiction and nonfiction of the West, often cataloging the historical fiction in their academic catalogs rather than general, because of the validity of the research involved. Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nebraska University Presses are examples.

The Western genre has proven itself, despite detractors. My own books are used extensively in the schools, especially for reluctant readers at Middle School thru 12th grade.

Seven Tips for Web Writers

by Bonnie Eaton

Have you thought about writing for the Internet? If you have, then you will find these tips helpful. Web writing is very different from, say, writing a novel, but knowing a few simple rules will increase your chance for success.

1. Bait your reader by writing on popular web subjects that holds their interest.
2. Use a title that will pique the reader's curiosity. Your title should promise help, a solution, or a result. Tucking powerful words in your title like "secret," "free," and "quick" work to get the reader's attention but use the words honestly. There are four types of effective titles to consider.
 - (1) How to titles promise help.
Example: How To Write For The Internet.
 - (2) Ask a question to hook the reader.
Example: Need Help In Web Writing?
 - (3) Use a directive title but be sure to keep the reader involved.
Example: Why You Should Consider Web Writing.
 - (4) Promise a result. Change the number to suit your article.
Example: Eight Tips For Web Writers.
3. A good rule of thumb is to keep your articles between 500 to 750 words.
4. Keep the line of text width at six inches for easy reading. Internet readers tend to scan because reading from a monitor is very tiring on the eyes. Short lines are easier to read because readers do not have to move their head.
5. Get to the point. Internet readers want information fast so put the important information at the top, using bullets and subheads, and then add supporting facts and details in the order of importance.
6. Use small blocks of text. Large blocks of writing tire the eyes and are harder to read while shorter paragraphs move the reading quickly.
7. Make sure your page loads quickly. Tables, special formatting and the length of the article will slow the load time. Don't forget the average Internet user depends on modems, although DSL and other technologies are being used.

The Internet provides you with a way to showcase your talent, at the same time building clips for the time when you publish. Perhaps this short list of tips will help you succeed with your goal as a web writer and realize your dream of seeing your work published.

Bonnie Eaton, aka, B.J. Myrick, is the author of *Dark Side of the Rainbow*, a short story collection of dark fiction. Her web site features book reviews and interviews of KWA members, writing articles, poetry, and excerpts from her book.
<http://www.sktc.net/~beaton>.

Additional Help for Web Writers

Tips for Writers and Designers: A site with helpful tips for home page makers, e-mailers, or web site graphic designers.
www.dsiegel.com/tips/

Writing for a Web Audience: More ideas for developing visitors' trust and keeping them coming back to your web site.
www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/usability/library/us-writ/

Tagline Blues: A site that talks about understanding the importance of good taglines on web sites.
www.useit.com/alertbox/20010722.html

Newbie Web Author Checklist: Things you should check out before publishing your web project.
<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/e-test/checklist.htm>

Writing Electronic Text Tips: Links to various advice on writing electronic documents.
<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/e-text/index.html>

Website Tips: An educational resource with tutorials, graphics tutorials, articles and tips for building or improving a web site.
www.websitetips.com

Web Design Tips: Some essential web design tips.
www.smartwebby.com/web_site_design/webdesign_tips.asp

Top Ten Mistakes in Web Design: An older site, but the list is still worth reading.
www.useit.com/alertbox/9605.html.

KWA Meeting News

New Place, New Time, New Idea

Our April 17th meeting will be at Rockwell Library, 5939 East 9th. We will meet at 1:30 for our workshop with Hazel Hart. 2:30 is our social hour, giving us a chance to network with other writers. Our regular meeting will begin at 3:00. We are trying new things. Let us know what you think.

KWA Anthology Booksigning

KWA's 2004 Anthology, *Words Out of the Flatlands*, is set for its presentation on April 10, 4 to 6 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas. Join us for a booksigning and celebration. Winners can pick up their free copy. Additional copies will be available for \$12.00 each.

Change in Membership Dues

All membership dues now will be paid on June 1st of each year beginning June 1, 2004. Membership dues coming in every week has created extra work for our treasurer and membership administrator. This will simplify things for these two people who donate a great deal of time to KWA, and make it easier for all of us to know when to pay our dues.

Due to increased costs of our newsletter, programs and seminars our dues will be \$25.00 beginning immediately. This is a terrific bargain for a one-year membership.

KWA Help Wanted!

Help! We still need a secretary.

KWA April Mini-Workshop

By Hazel Hart

Flashbacks, those scenes that show past events in the lives of characters, have a bad reputation among authors of novel writing books. They say flashbacks interrupt the present story and readers don't like them. The general consensus is that flashbacks are to be avoided—unless, of course, you need one.

In April's pre-meeting mini-workshop, we will talk about whether you agree with the experts about flashback. Do you skip them when you read? How necessary are they? Could the same information be included in other ways and be as effective? If you have an example of a flashback that is excellent or awful, bring it to share with the group. We will also talk about some techniques for moving your characters smoothly into the past and back to the present again. See you there.

Books For Soldiers

by Starla Criser

Do you have old, but usable paperback books just sitting around, collecting dust and don't know what to do with them? There are various places within every town that will gladly accept these items: public libraries, YMCAs, women's shelter centers, and nursing homes just to name a few.

Another place that I recently learned about while surfing the Internet is the Books For Soldiers web site. This is a soldier support site that ships books, DVDs and more to deployed soldiers and soldiers in VA hospitals. They have an online bulletin board where you can get an address for a soldier, airman, marine or sailor and find out specific requests. You can correspond with your chosen soldier, or simply ship a book or two to him.

The organization also happily accepts donations to help cover the cost when they ship books to soldiers overseas.

<http://www.booksforsoliders.com>

Kessler's Novel Writing Made Simple

Gordon Kessler's easy-to-understand manual for the beginning novelist and a comprehensive reference/review for the experience fictionist is [now available](#). The book will soon be available in the local bookstores. Copies are now available for a KWA member price of \$12.00 from his web site at www.gordonkessler.com or email him at gordon@gordonkessler.com.

Mechanics and Manuscript Format

Borrowed from Gordon A. Kessler's *Novel Writing Made Simple*

Correct formatting alone will increase your odds of getting published by ten fold—that's right, now we're down from 1000: 1 to 100:1.

When formatted properly, your manuscript page should contain roughly **250 words**. Format your manuscript pages as follows:

1. Use **one-inch margins on the sides, top and bottom**. Sources vary, some say 1 1/2" on the right side, some say 1 1/4" on both sides. Do what you feel comfortable with, but be consistent. If the agent or publisher has different guidelines than what you see here, please those you're submitting work to, not me.
2. Start the first page of every chapter **1/3 of the way down** the page—line seven or eight. Print **Chapter** and the chapter number at the left margin. Leave an extra double space before starting the body text.
3. Use a **size-twelve font**. The most widely accepted and commonly requested fonts in the industry are **Courier, Times New Roman** and **Arial**. However, font styles alone will make a difference in your individual page's word count. A page done in Times New Roman will have considerably more words on it than one done in Courier.
4. Only **print on one side** of the page and use a **bright white 20 or 22-pound bond paper**.
5. Leave your manuscript **loose-leaf**, unbound.
6. Each manuscript page needs a **header** (a.k.a. **slugline**) in the **upper left corner** giving the **author's last name** with a **forward slash**, then the **manuscript title in all caps**, (e.g. **Kessler/BRAINSTORM**).
7. Place **page numbers in the upper right corner**, opposite the header.
8. **Double-space** lines and don't leave an extra line between paragraphs.
9. **Indent five spaces** at the beginning of each new paragraph.
10. The text itself should be **aligned to the left**, not justified or centered.
11. Printing must be clean, clear and dark.
12. On the title page center all information both horizontally and vertically. This guideline varies considerably according to the source. The main concern is to include manuscript title, word count, genre, author's name, address, phone number, and email address on the title page.

KWA Members' Web Sites

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

Don Coldsmith, author of many historical 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*.

KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**PRESIDENT**

Suzann Robinson

VICE-PRESIDENT

Conrad Jestmore

TREASURER

Richard Walkup

RECORDING SECRETARY**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Starla Criser

starlakaye@earthlink.net

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Deanna Dahlem

Hazel Hart

HISTORIAN

Arlene Rains Graber

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Shelley Plett

WEB SITE COORDINATOR

Angela Criser

COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Colleen Kelly Johnston

SCENE OF THE CRIME COORDINATOR

Gordon Kessler

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**KWA Meeting: April 17****CALENDAR OF EVENTS****ARTICLE—New and Renewing Members****MARKET PLACE—Market News, Contests, Conferences****ARTICLE—Don Coldsmith****ARTICLE—Web Sites for Western Writers****ARTICLE—Western Genre Markets****ARTICLE—The Western Genre****ARTICLE—Seven Tips for Web Writers****ARTICLE—Additional Help for Web Writers****ARTICLE—KWA Meeting News, Anthology Booksigning****ARTICLE—Change in Dues, April Mini-Workshop****ARTICLE—Books for Soldiers****ARTICLE—Mechanics and Manuscript Format****ARTICLE—Members' Web Sites**