



KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet

****New Date, Time & Location****

**December 11
The Shadow Restaurant
550 N. Rock Rd.
5:30 p.m. Social Time
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Presentation of Awards**

Registrations were required by December 5

CALL FOR ENTRIES KWA MEMBERS ONLY

KWA announces its annual competition for the cover design of the 2006 issue of its anthology, *Words Out of the Flatlands*.

“Words Out of the Flatlands” and “Prose and Poetry From the Kansas Writers Association — 2005” should appear on the cover.

Entries may be black and white or color, 8 1/2 x 11. The design must be reproducible on paper, but may be in any medium.

Winning cover will appear on the anthologies to be published in 2006.

The KWA board will be the final judge and its decision will be final.

Entries must be mailed flat to KWA Cover Design, PO Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201-2236.

Deadline is January 15, 2006. There is no entry fee for this “members only” competition.

New & Renewing Members

New

Sara Hunter
Sherry Nuehring
Gloria Wandra
Brittany Willes

Renewals

Leonard Biggs
Sharon Jesik
Rebecca Kerschen
Margaret Morrison
Irma Wassall

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 7 & 21—GK Brainstormers novel-writing critique group, 7:00 p.m. in the “History” section at Borders East. Contact Gordon at gordon@gordonkessler.com or 316-685-0098.

Dec. 7—First Saturday Terrorist Women will meet on Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Dec. 2, 16 & 30—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Dec. 11—KWA Writing competition awards banquet. 5:30 Social time, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Awards presentation. The Shadow Restaurant, 550 N. Rock Road.

Dec. 16—Newsletter deadline for January.

Jan. 4—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., in the “History” section at Borders East. Contact Gordon Kessler at gordon@gordonkessler.com or 316-685-0098.

Jan. 4—First Saturday Terrorist Women will meet on Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Market Place

Market News

AARP The Magazine is looking for articles up to 2,000 words on careers, workplace, practical information in living, financial and legal matters, personal relationships, and consumerism for people age 50 and over. Pays up to \$3,000. Website at <http://www.aarp.org>.

Suzu's Zoo greeting cards is looking for unrhymed verse ideas that make people smile and touch their heart. Pays \$75/idea. Website at <http://www.suzyszoo.com>.

Warner Press, Publishers is looking for short (110-150 word) inspirational verse for Sunday bulletins. Pays \$30-\$35/idea. Karen Rhodes, senior editor. Email krhodes@warnerpress.org.

Donald Maass Literary Agency is seeking new and unpublished writers of women's fiction, although they also represent authors in most other fiction genres. Website at <http://www.maassagency.com>.

Contests

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

Short-Short Story: Deadline: Dec. 10. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$60 first, \$35 second, \$20 third. Submission: Short story of any type or subject, up to 2,000 words.

Poem of Loss: Deadline: Dec. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Losing a love one, losing your way, losing faith. Any style or length poem.

Holiday Memories: Deadline: Dec. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25

second, \$15 third. Submission: Article or essay focused on a special holiday memory that left a lasting impression or impact on the writer's life. Maximum 1,200 words.

Women's Poem: Deadline: Dec. 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length, for or about women.

Free Verse: Deadline: Jan. 5. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any subject or length, unrhymed free verse poem.

9th Semi-annual Cross Way Publications Poetry Contest

Deadline: Dec. 31. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$60 first, \$30 second, \$15 third. Submission: Unpublished poems on the theme "Consider the Lilies," up to one page per poem. Details at http://www.christianpoetry.org/poetry_contest.shtml.

The Mellow Press Short Story Contest

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2006. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$250 and publication in the summer edition of *Cadillac Cicatrix* and online at www.NorthernPros.com. Submission: Stories up to 20 pages in length. Details at <http://www.northernpros.com/contest.html>.

Hotel Amerika 2006 Poetry and Fiction Contests

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: Winners in each genre (poetry and fiction) will receive \$1,000 and be considered for publication. Submission: Unpublished story up to 20 pages in length; 1-3 poems. Details at <http://www.hotelamerika.net/contest.shtml>.

PRISM Short Fiction Contest

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$27. Prizes: \$2,000 grand, \$200 runners-up. All entrants receive a one-year subscription to *PRISM International*.

Submission: Unpublished fiction up to 25 pages. Details at <http://prism.arts.ubc.ca/contests/fiction.htm>.

Reading Writers First Chapter Contest

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$100 grand prize, three opinions, and two months publication on their website. Submission: First chapter of any genre, up to 5,000 words. NO prologues. Details at <http://www.readingwriters.com/contest.htm>.

Another Sleepless Night Competition

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$50. Prizes: \$1,000 first and reading by a professional at a major Hollywood studio, reading by a professional for second. Submission: Screenplay at least 80 pages in length, not previously produced. Details at <http://www.anothersleeplessnight.com>.

Breakthrough With a Scream Competition

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$50. Prizes: \$1,000 and reading by a professional at a major Hollywood studio, only a reading by a professional for second place. Submission: Screenplay at least 80 pages in length with a science fiction or horror theme. Details at <http://www.anothersleeplessnight.com>.

Applause Screenwriting Competition

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2006. Entry Fee: \$55. Prizes: \$2,000 first, \$1,000 second, \$500 third. The three winners will have their scripts sent to production companies, managers and agents. Submission: Screenplays feature length 100-300 pages. Details at <http://www.applause4you.com>.

A No-nonsense Guide to the Writer's Market

By Bill DeArmond

So you've just shelled out \$75.00 for the big three Writer's Market books and you're trying to figure out how to recoup your investment. You've got a couple of stories and a mass of bad poetry and you're hoping to find an outlet among the thousands of listings. Good luck! Unless you're Dan Brown or Stephen King your chances of quitting your day job and weekends as a Wal-Mart greeter are overwhelmingly stacked against you.

I have chosen to make careers out of two occupations that pay nothing—teaching and writing. While so far I haven't made enough to cover my SASEs, in the last two years I've published three books, 6 stories, 38 poems and a dozen non-fiction letters and articles in *The Wichita Eagle*, *USA Today*, *True Romance* and others. What follows is just one writer's system to finding potential outlets and narrowing down the thousands of sources in the Writer's Market guides.

The publishing game is a Catch 22—without our words those magazines would be little more than blank sketchbooks with an attractive cover; yet without those outlets we'd be reduced to putting the work on our websites where they are read only by our mother. Here are a few things I do to improve my chances of finding a compatible source for my material.

No Simultaneous Submissions

I mark off every source that has this stipulation. Unless you're *Playboy*, who are you to demand exclusive rights to read my material? Since it takes you 6-8 months to send me a dittoed rejection and I'm not going to live to be 150 years old, I can't wait on you. I know writers who ignore this stipulation and go ahead and send multiple submits to exclusive markets. But I respect their restrictions and don't

send anything to them. Hey, I've got a couple of decent pieces you might like, but it's your loss. And you don't pay very much anyway.

Since your chances of being accepted by exclusive sources are 80 to 1 (well, mine are anyway) and it takes forever to get a response, ignore these outlets until you are Stephen King and they'll solicit you. I once sent a story to a restricted literary journal with a circulation of just 100 and *they never responded*. I had to withdraw another story from an exclusive magazine because it would have been over a year before publication and that story was to be included in one of my anthologies.

Online Web Sites

This is a rapidly emerging way to get recognized because it costs virtually nothing (consequently you're paid nada). I'm still of the old school belief that I'm not really published unless I can hold the magazine in my hand (since this is usually the only compensation you'll get). The potential that someone will read your story online is much greater than in a limited circulation literary journal. I've had two stories published by web-zines including the prestigious *Nth Degree Magazine*.

Email Submissions

The advantage here is that it doesn't cost you postage or copying. Reading time can still be the same as snail mail submissions. As diligent as *Writer's Market* tries to be, at least 30% of my email submissions to these markets are either returned because of dead websites or the magazine can't open my attachments regardless of format.

International Publications

You can get a credit by being published in a magazine in Swaziland but nobody's going to see it. Few international journals are available in the US without subscription. Submissions via email are an easy way to try these sources. I've never been able to figure

out the postage/return requirements of an International Reply Coupon, or what \$100 in Canadian money is in real dollars.

Don't Send List

I have developed a list of publications that will no longer get to read my material. Yes, it is a blacklist. Journals get on it if they fail to reply twice to my submissions (I assume they're steaming off the stamps on my SASEs) or send an impersonal, unprofessional tiny strip of copied paper to reject me (as opposed to the professionally copied form postcards). I understand the whole "we get too many submissions to reply to them individually" mea culpa, but at least take the time to sign the card or scribble "This stinks!"

Do Send List

Obviously there are some conscientious, caring publishers who sincerely want to cultivate a relationship with an emerging writer (not many, but some), and actually reject you within a month and tell you why. I have two journals that now keep a personal file of all my submitted work and use it regularly. They usually get first shot at everything I write. I always respond to an acceptance with a "thank you" and, in many cases, a year's subscription.

Conclusion

As the pages of the KWA newsletter indicate, you can get published if you are persistent. Editors have subjective takes on what they personally like. Their rejection doesn't mean your submission doesn't have quality and can't find an outlet. If you believe in your work (and rewrite it a bazillion times), there will be someone out there who will agree with you.

I wrote a story in college 40 years ago. It was rejected 38 times and totally rewritten at least six. In 2003 "The Wyr of Slater House" was the grand prize fiction winner in the Kansas Voices contest.

KWA: 2006 Events

The monthly meetings, except for October and December 2006 will be at Rockwell Library.

The meeting time will be moved up an hour beginning with the January meeting. The typical new monthly meeting schedule will be:
12:30-1:30 p.m. Pre-meeting mini-workshop
1:30-2:00 p.m. Social time
2:00-3:30 p.m. Main meeting with a program
3:30-4:30 p.m. Critique session

January 21 Pre-meeting mini-workshop on goal setting by Hazel Hart. Main program on Memoir Writing presented by Phyllis Rowland. Critique session facilitated by Gordon Kessler.

February 18 Pre-meeting mini-workshop by Hazel Hart and Starla Criser. Main program on Romance Writing coordinated by Starla Criser. Critique session to follow.

March 18 Pre-meeting mini-workshop on using Microsoft by Gordon Kessler. Main program on Screen Writing. Critique session to follow.

April 15 No mini-workshop. Main program on Science Fiction/Horror Writing. Critique session to follow.

May 20 Pre-meeting mini-workshop by Hazel Hart. Main program on Writing for Young Adults by Mike Klaassen. Critique session to follow.

June 17 Undetermined as yet.

July 15 Undetermined as yet, but will probably be focused on writing poetry.

August 19 Undetermined as yet.

September 16 Undetermined as yet.

October 20-22 Scene of the Crime conference. Watch for details as the event planning progresses.

November 18 Undetermined as yet.

December 9 KWA Writing Competition Awards Banquet.

KWA Officers and Appointed Positions Job Descriptions

The election of officers and the appointment of key positions 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. Nominations for any and all seats will be open at the meeting. A brief job description for each follows:

OFFICERS

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.

Recording Secretary: Attends all general and Board meetings, takes minutes and provides copies to Board members in advance of meetings.

Advisor: Assists with continuity in the management of the KWA. Only a past president is qualified or eligible for the position.

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 the membership and creates the monthly newsletter.

Promotions Manager: Arranges publicity for all KWA's needs.

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Ambassador: Represents and promotes KWA.

At-large Board members (2): Attend all Board meetings, provide input and volunteer time for the work of the organization.

Contest Coordinator: Coordinates all facets of the annual competition.

Historian: Gathers all information about KWA and its members to be kept in an official scrapbook for the organization.

Membership Chairperson: Keeps the names and addresses of members, and the date of termination or resignation of membership.

Volunteer Coordinator: Coordinates volunteer opportunities and help coordinate events.

Website Coordinator: Updates and maintains the website on a monthly basis.

President's Letter

By Suzann Robinson

The turkey leftovers are gone and we are beginning or finishing, depending on our organizational skills, preparing for Christmas. Our Awards Banquet, December 11, will be a memorable event, a culmination of a great year at KWA. So now we're about to start a new year.

2006 will be filled with many thought provoking and entertaining programs. January we'll find out about writing memoirs from our speaker, Phyllis Rowland. In February we will learn how to write romance from the experts. In March a screenwriter will be our speaker. In April our speaker will tell us how to write science fiction and horror. Our annual Scene of the Crime Conference will be a spectacular two-day event with many wonderful speakers and activities.

What are your suggestions for programs? We want to provide information that will help all of us as writers. Tell any board member you see what you want. We need your ideas.

Best wishes for a safe and joyous Christmas from the KWA Board: Conrad, Matt, Richard, Starla, Hazel, Arlene, Colleen, Gordon, and Suzann.

Happy Holidays!

Wanted: Volunteer Coordinator

Responsibilities would include coordinating KWA members for volunteer opportunities such as sitting at the registration table at events, running errands during a conference, and other such things. The Volunteer Coordinator would also be expected to attend the monthly KWA Board Meetings in order to coordinate events, volunteers and needs. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please E-mail Suzann at srobinson12@cox.net.

Member News

Ralph Allen won first prize in the Inspirational category in the KAC state competition with his story "A Rustle of Wings;" his *The Rise and Fall of Eddie McCoy* won third prize in the First Five Pages of a Book category.

Linda Gebert had her poem "Recovery" published in *Transparent Words*, an online poetry journal.

Colleen Kelly Johnston's poem "Kalahari" has been published in the anthology, *Tonight, Cassandra*.

Myrne Roe's article on Watermark Books and Cafe has been purchased by *ByLine Magazine* and will be published in their December issue as part of their ongoing series on interesting bookstores around the US.

James D. Wright placed second in the short story category of the Kansas Author's Club contest with "The First Step of an Even Dozen."

Richard Walkup recently had published an article titled "Arrow Rock World" in *The Friends of Arrow Rock Newsletter*. The article was about the time he lived in Arrow Rock, Missouri. It was and still is a small village on the bluffs of the Missouri River, a village of about 300 or 400 people (at that time). He and his sisters moved from St. Louis County to that small historic community in 1947 and lived there for four years. The story is about the wonderful times and memorable people he met.

Bill DeArmond, of Southwestern College in Winfield, now has had two collections of his stories released by Lulu Publishing: *Hail, Freedonia and Other Tales* and *Visions of Shadow and Light*. The last collection features DeArmond's story "The Wyr of Slater House," which was the fiction grand prize winner in 2003 for *Kansas Voices*. Both books are available at www.lulu.com or through Amazon.com. DeArmond also has the story "Doppelganger" published by *Nth Degree Magazine* online at www.nthzine.com. "Hail, Freedonia" was released in *The Binnacle* by the University of Maine at Machias. He will have poems appearing in forthcoming issues of *Tacenda*, *West Ward Quarterly*, and *Poetry Harbor*.

KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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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