



Our Next KWA Meeting

See complete information inside.

Scene of the Crime Conference

October 16

8:00 a.m. — 5:30 p.m. (Conference)

6:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. (Dinner)

Century II Convention Center

Meeting Room 101

Who Should Attend:

**Authors, Novice Writers, CSI Students,
Law Students, Interested Public**

**SEATING IS LIMITED
PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

\$65 members — \$85 nonmembers

“Who Dun It?” Mystery Dinner \$35

For details and information log on to

www.kwawriters.org

or contact Gordon Kessler at

316-685-0098 or

gordon@gordonkessler.com

New & Renewing Members

New

E. A. Bates Dale Bukaty
Trix Niemberger

Renewals

Bernell Baldwin John Madden
Stephanie Diepenbrock Sherry Phillips
Rebecca Kerschen Bonnie Tharp

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 1—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. at Myrne Roe’s house

Oct. 6, 20—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

Oct. 8, 29—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Oct. 16—KWA’s “Scene of the Crime” conference, Century II Convention Center, Meeting Room 101.

Oct. 20—Newsletter deadline for November.

Oct. 21—KWA Board meeting, 6-8 p.m., Watermark Books & Cafe

Oct. 31—2004 KWA Prose & Poetry Competition deadline.

Nov. 3—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section

Nov. 5—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. at Betty Richard’s house.

Nov. 12—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Our Mission Statement

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

Market Place

Market News

Judy Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, a lifetime achievement prize. Source: PublishersWeekly.com, Sept. 20, 2004.

Xlibris Corp., a Philadelphia book publisher, has laid off 35 workers and moved the jobs to the Philippines. The company claims they can triple the number of employees there due to the lower wages. Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Aug. 3, 2004, www.philly.com.

New American Library (NAL) is moving all NAL romances, except the Signet Regency line, to the Signet Eclipse imprint. NAL is looking for erotic romances of 90,000-100,000 words with a great hook. They are also seeking Chick Lit mysteries of approximately 300 manuscript pages. These are cozies with strong female heroines and modern sensibilities.

Avalon Books is looking for light Chick Lit of 40,000-60,000 words. They no longer publish romantic suspense. www.avalonbooks.com.

Ballantine Books wants big romances of 100,000 words for single titles. They will consider queries from unagented authors.

Red Sage Publishing is adding single title erotic fiction of 55,000-75,000 words to their offerings. They will continue publishing novella collections, and increasing the publications from four novellas a year to eight. They are looking for sensuous, bold, spicy novellas between 25,000-45,000 words. www.redsagepub.com.

Contests

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

Flash Fiction Deadline: Oct. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$15 third. Submission: A short story or vignette under 1,000 words, which nevertheless feels complete. These often depend on atmosphere and technique more than plot.

Autumn Poem Deadline: Oct. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

Children's Article Deadline: Oct. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: An article for kids of any age, or nonfiction relating to children. Includes anything from kids crafts to how-tos for parents or Sunday school teachers. Length: 200 to 1,800 words.

Inspirational Poem Deadline: Oct. 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Poem in any style on a spiritual or inspirational theme.

New-Talent Short Story Deadline: Nov. 5. 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. Length: Maximum of 5,000 words.

Fantastical Visions 2004 Short Fiction Writing Contest

Deadline: Oct. 15. Entry Fee: None for one entry, \$5 for two. Prizes: All winning and honorably mentioned stories will be published in *Fantastical Visions Vol. IV* and receive 25% pro rata share of net price of book. \$150 first, \$100 second, \$50 third, honor-

able mentions receive .5-2 cents per word as an advance on 25% pro rata share of net price of book. Submission: Stories of a fantastical nature (high fantasy with elves and wizards, supernatural thriller set in modern day, magic in ancient Egypt, etc.) up to 10,000 words. Details at <http://fantasistent.com/CONTESTS/StoryConRules.html>.

Personal Essay Contest

Deadline: Oct. 30. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$500 first, \$250 second, \$75 third, \$25 fourth. Submission: personal essay between 500-1,500 words on any topic. Details at www.everywriter.com/announcements.htm.

Once Written.com Fall Fiction Writing Contest

Deadline: Oct. 31. Entry Fee: \$15. Prizes: \$1,000 grand plus publication on website and in monthly *Off The Press* newsletter; \$100 first and publication on website and in *Off The Press* newsletter. Submission: Short story up to 5,000 words. Details at www.oncewritten.com/Contests/FictionContest.htm.

Writer's Digest 5th Annual Short Short Story Competition

Deadline: Dec. 1. Entry Fee: \$12. Prizes: \$3,000 first, \$1,500 second, \$500 third, \$100 fourth-tenth, \$50 eleventh-twenty-fifth. Submission: Short stories up to 1,500 words. Details at www.writersdigest.com/contests/short_story.asp.

Finding More Time To Write

By Mathew Curry

Whether you are a seasoned writer, or just enjoy jotting down a few words, it requires time. Depending on job duties, marital status, and the number of children at home, some have more time than others, but it's never enough.

How many of you have a project in the back of your mind that's been sitting there for years? "I'll start on it someday," you've said over and over again, or even worse, "When I get a round to it." *A round to it*—sounds more like a subway token, when in actuality *it is nothing more than time*. The most valuable commodity in the world is *free* time, and although it can't be bought, it can be borrowed, and in larger quantities than might be expected. With a little planning and a touch of discipline, anyone can find more time to write.

Set a daily goal for the number of minutes you will work on your project. Keep the number realistic, but set it high enough to challenge yourself. This number should be met or *exceeded* every day no matter what else happens.

Never leave home without some type of writing kit, even if it's as simple as a pen and pad of paper. If you find yourself in a waiting room for a doctor, dentist, or whatever the case may be, don't look at that tattered copy of *Time* magazine, write in your note pad. If you have breaks at work, don't hang out at the water cooler, write. Go to work an hour early, sit in your car with the dome light on and write. Stay twenty minutes late, and write, write, write. When you get used to looking for small blocks of wasted time you'll be amazed at how many you'll find.

For those of *us* who have difficulty reading our own handwriting or those who just prefer typing, a small, battery-powered word processor can be a lifesaver. Some of them are better than others. The one I use weighs less than two pounds, holds 100 pages of text, and most importantly only requires two AA batteries for over 200 hours of use. It comes with a patch cord to download to a home computer and is both Mac and PC compliant. The wonderful thing about these little beauties is the price. Though a brand new model can run as much as \$300, a perfectly good used model can be found on eBay from \$40 to \$100. If you don't find one the first time you search, be patient, they will show up, and sell for the prices mentioned. I keep mine in the car most of the time, and if it should get stolen, it's cheap enough to replace.

A commonly overlooked block of time takes place while in a vehicle. Of course if you're driving, it's difficult to write anything, not to mention dangerous. But with the aid of a small recording device you can easily make good use of this time bandit. Dictation can be extremely helpful for some, and useless for others. I find dealing with cassette recorders too cumbersome and a real pain, but another eBay gadget solved this problem for me. It is a voice activated digital recorder, that's small enough to fit comfortably in almost any pocket. The quality and pricing of these cover the entire spectrum, but as with word processors, they turn up for a small fraction of their retail price.

These are but a few examples of the numerous ways that anyone can find more time to work on that bestseller. Look around, be creative. Free time is everywhere if you just figure out how to harness it.

Tips for Managing Your Time

By Starla Criser

Here are some tips for more effective time management:

- Take time to plan and organize in a way that works best for you. Review your calendar and notes for upcoming projects daily, or at least weekly.
- Keep in mind your biological peaks and lows when making your project plans. Plan to do your most difficult work during the times when you're at your best.
- Set goals for all of your life: personal time, social time, and your writing time.
- Large projects (writing goals) should be broken down into smaller, more manageable parts. Take these smaller parts of the overall project into consideration when planning your time.
- Prioritize your goals and tasks to complete. In your daily or weekly review of plans for your time, re-prioritize when necessary.
- Use a To Do List, which can be combined with your planning calendar. Check off projects that are finished. It makes you feel good to see items leaving that list.
- Learn to say "No." Before you agree to yet another commitment, consider your goals. Also consider that things are going to come up out of the blue with your family and friends, and allow for such emergencies. Do not take on more than you can sanely accomplish.

The 7th Annual

SCENE OF THE CRIME CONFERENCE

Saturday October 16, 2004 — 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
Century II Convention Center, Meeting Room 101

MORNING

8:00—8:45 Registration

8:45—9:00 Opening
“Scene” & KWA Business

9:00 Lt. Kenneth Landwehr
Veteran WPD Detective, will discuss methods of crime investigation as well as details of *solved cases*.

10:00 Shawn Stroud
Supervisory Special Agent of the FBI in Kansas, will discuss that agency’s role in federal crimes and terrorism.

11:00 Criminal Investigation Panel
Michael Shwanke, KWCH Channel 12 weekend anchor and former crime reporter will moderate a panel of Criminologists including Mindy Johnson (latent finger prints), Dan Fahnestock (forensic biologist & DNA), and Barbara Downer (handwriting analyst).

12:00 –1:30 Lunch with Gaylord Dold & Robert Beattie
Gaylord Dold, author of 12 crime novels, and Robert Beattie, author of a book in progress on Wichita’s BTK killer, will discuss writing true crime and crime fiction.

AFTERNOON

1:30 Officer Eugene Jacobs
WPD CSI team, will lead us through typical crime scene investigation procedures from arrival at the scene through solving the case.

2:30 Capt. Darrell Haynes
WPD Special Operations will explain the duties of SWAT, BombSquad, and Air Operation units.

3:30 Dr. Mary Dudley
Chief Medical Examiner for Sedgwick County, will discuss the role forensic medical investigation plays in solving cases.

4:30 Dr. Peer Mohr-Jansen
Forensic anthropologist at WSU, will use bullet-ridden, broken and sawed bones to illustrate how forensics can be the key to unlocking and solving cases.

5:20—6:30 Break

6:30 “Who Dun It?” Mystery Dinner featuring...
Dana Womack’s Who Knows More Mysteries. Combining interactive theatrics with a delicious meal. An entertaining finish to an exciting day.

“The details on crime investigation will be very helpful in my writing.”

“Goodstuff! Detective Landwehr’s experiences were riveting.”

“It’s worth it. This is my second Scene of the Crime, and I look forward to next year’s.”

“If you’re a crime fiction writer or reader, it’s an excellent resource.”

“I came for the nuts and bolts stuff. Being able to network with other writers was a plus.”

“I’m working on my first story and this background material will help a lot—the forensic material in particular.”

“The mystery dinner afterwards is a hoot!”

The 7th Annual

SCENE OF THE CRIME CONFERENCE

**Saturday October 16, 2004 — 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
Century II Convention Center, Meeting Room 101**

“Who Dun It?” Mystery Dinner

by Dana Womack’s Who Knows More Mysteries?

**Century II Meeting Room 101
6:30 p.m. October 16**

The Dinner Menu by Wichita Canteen

Pasta Plus Dinner Buffet

Freshly Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings

Baked Meat or Vegetable Lasagna

Grilled Chicken Parmesan

Hot Pasta with Two Italian Sauces

Italian Vegetable Medley

Assorted Dinner Rolls and Breadsticks

Chef’s Selection of Deserts

Iced Tea and Freshly Brewed Coffee

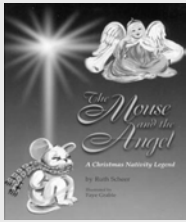
The Mystery

TOXIC TALK (Late-night television can be deadly)

“Toxic Talk” is a behind the scenes look at the real world of late-night talk show television. What you see is definitely not what you get. You would think a show with two hosts who can’t stand each other, a producer with a dubious past, a make-up artist who can’t keep her hands off of other women’s men and the entire cast and crew trying desperately to find another show would have the makings of really great entertainment—unfortunately, this isn’t daytime drama or reality TV.

Mix in enormous egos, a lawsuit, a break-in, a last will and testament, and a touch of *poison* and someone ends up making their last appearance...EVER!

A New Christmas Story for the Season



Wishing to write a Christmas story radiating truth and beauty to all mankind, in a moment of inspiration of November 25, 1952 *THE MOUSE AND THE ANGEL* came into being.

In a certain sense, it is a Cinderella story, but more than that. The Christmas Star shows the power of God's love to bless mankind with the gift of His Son, the Savior, Baby Jesus.

The angel, sent by God to earth to relieve suffering, selflessly gives her warm robe and wings to one of the smallest of creatures, the mouse. He is freezing to death in the snow.

The Christmas Star transforms the mouse into a beautiful bird. Wings enable the bird to fly to the manger where he sings a lullaby to Baby Jesus.

Not forgetting his benefactor, the bird flies back to retrieve the wingless angel. Holding her over the manger, she becomes Baby Jesus' guardian angel. The compassionate spirit of giving radiates whenever and wherever we celebrate Christmas.

This lovely book was written by **Ruth Scheer**, author of literature for children. Her other books include *Hippopotamus*, *My Friend*, *Giraffe at the Zoo*, and *Elephant's Trunk*.

Her books are available from Scheer Delight Publishing and can be purchased from and seen on the website www.scheerdelightpub.com. You may also email Ruth at schdelight@cox.net.

Terms Used in the Writing Industry

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

abridgment: shortened form of a literary work keeping the most important themes intact. Done especially to longer novels and for the purpose of audio versions.

adaptation: the rewriting of a novel into a screenplay or stage play, or visa versa.

anthology: grouping of several short stories or poems normally of a similar theme and by different authors, but can be a gathering of works by one author.

biographical novel: a fictionalized account of a true and documented life story.

blockbuster: commercially successful novel with sales in the hundred thousands and is placed on national bestseller lists.

book distributor: wholesaler such as Ingram or Baker & Taylor dealing in large quantities of books and acting as a go between for publishers and book retailers.

book dump: a book display used to help promote a particular book or books.

brand-name author: an author with a large following whose works the publisher considers to be consistently good sellers.

case bound: hardbound, clothbound or hardcover.

chronicle: a series of stories done in temporal sequence.

collaboration: two or more writers (in some cases may include an illustrator) working on the same novel.

colophon: a publisher's logo and/or credits.

detective: a "who-done-it" novel genre linked closely to mysteries and with a detective protagonist.

epic: story describing great heroes and great deeds at great length, usually over a period of many years.

experimental fiction: a type of any novel genre that is obviously unusual in structure, plot, narrative technique or style.

frontlist: usually new titles published that are given the most exposure by the publishing house and have the most profit potential.

Member News

Starla Criser has sold chapter 4 of Hawke's Lady, a novella in progress. Her editor has also contracted for a Western novella, Crooked T Ranch.

Ally Carter has received a two book deal with Berkley. Her first book, *CHEATING AT SOLITAIRE*, is a romantic comedy/chick lit hybrid, and will be out in fall 2005. The follow-up, *LEARNING TO PLAY GIN*, will be released in 2006.

Worley/Dold Workshop

By Conrad Jestmore

Poetry and fiction and lions and tigers and bears, ah, ha. There was a little bit of everything Saturday, September 18th at Collegiate's Upper School when twenty-five writers rolled up their sleeves and got down to the business of penning poetry and fiction at the Jeff Worley and Gaylord Dold workshops.

Mr. Worley, author of four books of poetry and editor of *Odyssey Magazine* at the University of Kentucky, began his workshop with exercises on the use of metaphor. Then each writer got to write a poem based on a metaphor created by dissimilar words obtained by a chance roll of the dice. The session wound up with Mr. Worley guiding the group through critiques of their own pre-submitted work.

Mr. Dold, author of fourteen mystery novels, started his session by discussing the importance of the beginning of the novel, using several famous authors as both good and bad examples. The group then wrote a first sentence to a novel with each participant contributing ideas.

After the two and a half hour sessions, both groups met jointly in what proved to be great fun. Worley and Dold could be the billing for a vaudeville team, as the two did their sit down version of a standup comedy routine. Their humorous patter about their life-long friendship, traveling adventures and writing experiences kept everyone entertained. In addition, their insights on what the poet and novelist can learn from each other was both funny and informative. All of this was punctuated periodically with readings from their own works.

Thank you to all who came, and to Jeff Worley and Gaylord Dold, for what one participant described as "the best workshop I've ever attended."

KWA Members' Websites

<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.starlakaye.com>

Starla Kaye, aka Starla Criser, author of *TUG OF LOVE* and numerous short stories.

<http://www.LeapDontSleep.com>

John Madden, author of numerous seminars and new book *LEAP, DON'T SLEEP!*

<http://www.sherilmcathy.com>

Sheri L. McGathy, author of *ELFEN GOLD*, a fantasy available as an e-book or paperback.

<http://www.loisruby.com>

Lois Ruby, author of literature for children and young adults.

<http://scheerdelightpub.com>

Ruth Scheer, author of literature for children: *Hippopotamus*, *My Friend*, *Giraffe at the Zoo*, *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
Mathew Curry
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Starla Criser
starlakaye@earthlink.net
AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS
Deanna Dahlem
Hazel Hart
HISTORIAN
Arlene Rains Graber
PROMOTIONS MANAGER
Shelley Plett
WEB SITE COORDINATOR
Angela Criser
CONTEST COORDINATOR
Colleen Kelly Johnston
AMBASSADOR
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 \$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.com

KWA News

Mathew Curry has agreed to take on the role of Recording Secretary for the remainder of the year.

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236
Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

KWA Meeting: October 16 — Scene of the Crime Conference
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
ARTICLE—New and Renewing Members
MARKET PLACE—Market News, Contests
ARTICLE—Finding More Time to Write
ARTICLE—Tips for Managing Your Time
ARTICLE—Scene of the Crime Conference/Dinner
ARTICLE—New Christmas Season Story
ARTICLE—Terms Used in the Writing Industry
ARTICLE—Worley/Dold Workshop
ARTICLE—Member News
ARTICLE—Members' Web Sites