



Our Next KWA Meeting

See complete information inside.

September 18
Collegiate Upper School
1221 N. Webb Rd, Wichita

Worley/Dold Workshops

Poetry and Fiction Writing

Registration: 12:30 p.m.
\$15 students, \$20 members
\$45 nonmembers

The afternoon of workshops will begin with two separate two and a half hour workshops: Jeff Worley on Poetry, and Gaylord Dold on Fiction. Following those sessions, the two authors will come together to discuss what the fiction writer and the poet can learn from each other. There will be a Q and A time and readings from their works.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

CORRECTION

The word limit for the "Stories of Wichita" category in KWA's annual competition announced last month was stated incorrectly. It should be 3,500 words, not 2,500.

Member News

Bonnie Tharp is proud to announce that her article regarding the spring 2004 All-Women Build for Habitat for Humanity "Women Building Futures," will be published in the September/October edition of *The Wichita Register Magazine*. The interviews for this assignment were a joy to conduct and allowed her the opportunity to share in this labor of love. Copies can be found at Barnes & Noble, Borders Books, and Watermark Books.

New & Renewing Members

New

Jennifer S. Fry
Denise Jordan

Renewal

Stephanie Bayliff
Linda Taylor

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 15, Oct. 6—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the "History" section.

Sept. 4—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. Emily Bonavia's house.

Sept. 10, 24—Women Working Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Sept. 10—Michele Battiste Poetry Performance, 6 p.m., Delano Books, 811 W. Douglas Street.

Sept. 18—Worley/Dold Workshops, Collegiate Upper School, 1221 N. Webb Rd.

Sept. 20—Newsletter deadline for October.

Sept. 23—KWA Board meeting, 6 p.m., Watermark Books & Cafe.

Oct. 1—First Saturday Group, 1 p.m. Myrna Roe's house.

Oct. 16—KWA's "Scene of the Crime" conference, Century II Convention Center, Meeting Room 101

Our Mission Statement

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

Market Place

Market News

Linda Lael Miller has sold three chick lit style romantic thrillers to Pocket in a very major deal.

Judith McNaught has made a three-book deal with Ballantine.

Alex Kava has sold three books to MIRA in a major seven figure deal.

Medallion is seeking mainstream/general fiction, historical fiction, young adult, romance, fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and thriller submissions. Guidelines at www.medallionpress.com.

eHarlequin.com is seeking entries in their Romance Idol writing challenge. Read the opening of the story written by renowned author Brenda Novak. Then write the rest of the story and enter it in the challenge. Judges will choose five stories to be published online this fall. The website readers will then choose the Romance Idol through an online poll. The winning author will receive a critique of the manuscript by a Harlequin or Silhouette editor, and publication of an original short story on eHarlequin.com in February 2005. Details at www.eharlequin.com/cms/learnhowtowrite.

Pocket is seeking contemporary and historical romance, paranormal, romantic suspense, erotica, and women's fiction. Assoc. Editor Selena James is looking for African-American stories, particularly a breath-taking adventure and hot sex. Sr. Editor Micki Nuding likes historical romance that is very, very sexy as well as romantic suspense and "Matron-lit." Pocket prefers agented submissions.

Contests

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

Genre Fiction Deadline: Sept. 10. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$15 third. Submission: Short story that fits a particular category: romance, sci-fi, confession, mystery, western, etc. No children's stories. Maximum 5,000 words.

Light Verse Deadline: Sept. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Greeting card verse, limericks, whimsical short poems, etc. Maximum 14 lines.

Nostalgia Deadline: Sept. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: A fond remembrance of the way things were. Maximum 1,200 words.

Poem in Formal Structure Deadline: Sept. 30. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Try a sestina, sonnet, villanelle or any other form that requires a specific structure.

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.

Saturday Writers 2004 Short Story Contest

Deadline: Sept. 15. Entry Fee: \$5 per entry, maximum of three entries. Prizes: \$100 first, \$50 second, \$25 third. Prize winners and honorable mention recipients will be given the chance to have their stories included in the Saturday Writers' literary collection published at the end of 2004. Submission: Open subject, open

genre, previously unpublished, maximum of 2,004 words. Details at www.saturdaywriters.org/contest.htm.

HSA Bernard Lionel Einbond Renku Competition

Deadline: Sept. 15. Entry Fee: \$15. Prizes: Grand prize up to \$150 and publication in *Frogpond* and on the HSA web site. Submission: Renkus of 36, 20, or 12 stanzas (kasen, nijuin, or junicho forms) written by two or more persons; not previously published. Details at www.hsa-haiku.org/res-hsa-contests.htm.

Glimmer Train Press Short Story Award for New Writers

Deadline: Sept. 30. Entry Fee: \$12 per story. Prizes: \$1,200 first and publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, \$500 second, \$300 third. Submission: Open to writers whose fiction has not appeared in any publication (print or online) with a circulation over 5,000. Unpublished entries only, up to 12,000 words. Details at www.glimmertrain.com/shorawfornew2.html.

Inland Empire California Writers Club 2004 Short Story, Non-Fiction and Poetry Contest

Deadline: Sept. 30. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: \$100 first, \$50 second, \$25 third. Submission: Short story, non-fiction or poem touching on the theme, *Secrets*, in some way. Short story and non-fiction up to 2,000 words. Poetry up to 100 lines. Details at www.angelfire.com/amiga/iecwcc/contest.html.

More Contests

2004 Preservation Foundation Contests

Deadline: Sept. 30. Entry Fee: None for the first story, \$5 for each additional story in the same category. Prizes: \$100 first; first runner-up, honorable mentions, and finalists in each category will receive certificates of recognition.

Submission General Nonfiction Contest: Any appropriate nonfiction topic; 1,500 to 5,000 words in length.

Submission Travel Nonfiction Contest: True accounts of a trip taken by the author or someone known personally by the author; 1,500 to 5,000 words in length. Details at www.storyhouse.org/contest.html.

Twelfth Annual Short-Story Contest

Deadline: Oct. 1. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: \$1,000 first and publication in the February/March 2005 issue of *Boston Review*. Submission: Previously unpublished stories up to 4,000 words in length. Details at www.bostonreview.net/contests.html.

Conferences

Glorieta Christian Writers' Conference

Location: LifeWay Glorieta Christian Convergence Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico

Date: October

Cost: \$305 plus food and lodging

This is a three-day program with comprehensive classes, specific sessions, and meet the pros roundtables. Attending will be nearly 60 editors, professional writers and other experts.

Information: <http://www.classservices.com> or e-mail info@glorietacwc.com.

Cat Writers' Association (CWA) 11th Annual Writers' Conference

Location: Houston, Texas

Date: November 19-21, 2004

Cost: \$125 for non-members prior to October 31.

The conference is open to anyone interested in pet writing and will feature two days of professional seminars with nationally known speakers on topics including magazine editor panels, how to write saleable articles and book proposals, self-publishing and radio interview techniques.

Information and registration options: <http://www.catwriters.org>.

Web Sites of Interest

www.bartleby.com

Encyclopedias, thesauri, dictionaries, quotations, bibles and more.

www.peevish.co.uk/slang/links.htm#crime

A really cool "slang" dictionary with slang from a bunch of topics and sources.

<http://public.onelook.com/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/bware/dofindp.cgi>

A quick find dictionary.

www.ukhairdressers.com/history%20of20%hair.asp

History of hair by periods, centuries, and years.

http://shoes-1.fateback.com/history_shoes.htm

History of shoes with some interesting tidbits.

<http://www.sneakers.pair.com>

Charlie's Sneaker Pages with various types of sneakers and nicknames.

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blshoe.htm>

Inventors and history of footwear and shoes.

<http://beauty.about.com/od/beautyhistory>

Beauty by the decade from 1900 forward.

<http://www.fashion-era.com>

Fashion Era with illustrated pages of fashion history, costume history, clothing, textiles and social history.

Tips on Entering Contests

By Starla Criser

- Enter contests that inspire you.
- Know why you are entering a contest: to test your book or story idea, for a free ride to some conference, to be seen by a certain editor or agent.
- Look for annual contests with a history and preferably with a list of past winners.
- Find and enter contests that fit your work and genre. Do not try to force work of the wrong genre into a contest.
- Read the rules carefully and follow them.
- Never enter a contest where you will lose your rights to the material permanently.
- Most contests want exactly 25 lines per page, while an editor might accept up to 28 lines. Know the contest rules and follow them.
- Carefully check misspellings, typos, punctuation, fonts, and margins.
- Necessities of a good entry: good opening lines, active verbs, strong believable characters, flowing dialogue, and strong conflict.
- Submit the longest entry allowable in the rules, being sure it ends with a strong hook.
- Remember that winning or placing in a contest that offers cash prizes is great, but getting included in a publication is even better. It's a way to get writing credits.
- It is very important to thank the judges to help establish networking and name recognition.
- Remember that entry fees can be included on Schedule C of your tax return as a business expense if you are a sole proprietor. Cash prizes must be listed as "Other Income" on your 1040.

Quick-Fix Tool-Box of Tips: Part 1

Eliminate Wordiness. Write light. Write Tight.

By Bonnie Eaton

1. Start with the word, "that." Run a word search for the word "that" in your story. Eliminate the offending word if the sentence reads just as well without it. Slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.
2. *Zzzzzz...* Is your reader asleep? Vary the length of your sentences. Sometimes a writer needs a simple hook to jab the old gray matter into remembering to add sentence variety for rhythm and pacing. Remember Goldilocks and the three bears? So—think papa bear (long sentences) mama bear (medium-length sentences) and baby bear (short, punchy sentences). Slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.
3. Run a word search for sentences beginning with "There is...", "There are...", and "The...". Such words drain power from your writing. Rewrite those offending starters for a more active sentence. Slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.

4. Tags tell instead of show.
In the example below we are told that she "yelled."
"You're the dumbest man I've ever known!" she yelled.

Below, the sentence now shows action.
Her shrill voice rose. "You're the dumbest man I've ever known!"

Even better, let the dialogue carry the meaning!
"You're the dumbest man I've ever known!"
Slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.

5. Use contractions.
Instead of "I will," use "I'll."
Instead of "cannot," use "can't."
Instead of "did not," use "didn't."

Get the idea? Of course, there are always exceptions.
You may need to use formal dialogue when establishing a certain social class position for a character you're developing. Always remember—write light...write tight!

6. Compact your prose. Create rhythm.
Drop the word "and" before the final word in a series. For instance, the sentence below contains a series of words, including "and."

Sarah stocked the pantry for Y2K: food, water, and candles.

The sentence, with the "and" dropped, now reads:
Sarah stocked the pantry for Y2K: food, water, candles.

Trim the fat. Write light. Write tight.

(Cont'd pg. 5)

Quick-Fix Tool-Box of Tips

Cont'd from pg. 4

7. Use active voice. Active voice is when the subject does the action instead of the other way around. A good strong verb shows action and the verb hardly ever needs an adverb.

The following list is a tip-off to a passive sentence. Just reword the sentence if you find one of the following words lurking within your sentence. Write in active voice whenever possible.

Culprit words to watch for: am, is, are, was, were, been.

Passive voice: The ball was thrown by John. (There's that nasty red flag word, "was" that tells us we have a passive sentence.)

Active voice: John threw the ball. (Mmmmm...much better. Now the subject, John, is doing the action (throwing the ball).)

I know. I know! I said it before. Slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.

Now it's time for your quiz. Ready? Here goes then. Just fill in the blanks.

QUIZ

1. Remember, slice the _____. Write _____. Write _____.

Okay, how did you do? Check below.

ANSWERS

Remember, slice the weight. Write light. Write tight.

The above article was borrowed with permission from Bonnie Eaton's website at <http://www.sktc.net>.

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*.

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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.

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Our Mission Statement

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

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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