

KWA

Kansas Writers Association

Celebrating our 16th year

all genres. all formats. ALL WRITERS.

JULY 2012

July 21 — 1:30-4:00 pm — Rockwell Library

High Concept Pitching. Many of us as writers have heard the importance of being able to present your novel in a sentence. This is important not only for being able to explain your project at an editor or agent appointment, but also for that casual opportunity for promotion anywhere, anytime. This type of project pitching is not only for novels. You can use the same concept for promoting your script, a poetry chapbook, a non-fiction book, a memoir, articles, etc.

Our members from Keyhole Conversations, Hazel Hart and Bonnie Myrick Eaton, will discuss the key points of High Concept Pitching, will help with a brief workshop, and then shoot a couple of pitches. The video pitches will be posted on the KWA website.

Come to the meeting prepared to walk away with comfortable knowledge about how to prepare YOUR high concept pitch.

Volume 16, Issue 7

Editor: Starla Criser

Calendar

- **July 21:** High Concept Pitching—your novel in a sentence
- **Aug 18:** Thinking Outside the Box
- **Sept 15:** Member readings
- **Oct 20:** Complicating the black moment
- **Nov 17:** Tom Mach, guest author
- **Dec 15:** Party time!



**PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS**
Gordon A. Kessler

Writers can't be choosers, can they? Sometimes our lives are so busy outside of writing that we can't choose *where* we write, let alone *when*. In the Marines, there's one phrase that's used nearly as much as *semper fidelis*!—especially when times get tough and there seems to be no apparent solution: "Improvise Marine!"

This little phrase might even apply to writers. Most of us have family, a job, community responsibilities, household chores, and other demands and distractions. How can we possibly find time to write and hone our craft when we have so many other things to do?

One way to keep your writing in the forefront of your mind and to stay connected to folks with similar interests is to come to our monthly KWA meetings. This month we'll be discussing the all-important pitch.

Why is pitching paramount, especially now? With all this new ePublishing stuff, the entire industry is in an uproar—pretty much turned on its ear. It's probably tougher now than ever for an unknown unpublished writer to get a book deal with a major NYC publishing house. If you're shooting for a traditional publishing contract, a good pitch is actually about as important as your manuscript. After all if you don't write a great query letter, you'll have a hard time finding an agent or editor who will want to read your work.

So, how do you write a good query? Stop by the KWA meeting July 21st and you'll find out. It's all about pitching—and we ain't talking baseball.

New Members

Jennifer Alderson

Rae Ann Cuda

Scott Moon

Member News

Starla Criser, aka Starla Kaye, recently sold a novella, *The Sheriff and the Mayor*, to Blushing Books.

Keyhole Conversations: If you like to cook, don't miss H. B. Berlow's post about cooking chicken piccata and talking about cooking and writing.
<http://bit.ly/QbzJsC>

I'm sure there is much more member news, but if you don't share it with me, it won't get listed here. Send your news to newsletter@kwawriters.org.

KWA News

KWA Flyer: April Pameticky designed a flyer to generally promote KWA. Copies are available to send to you or you can pick one or more up at a meeting. Every member is encouraged to help distribute them in appropriate places.

Book Exchange for KWA Members: Bring a writing (craft) book you no longer want and let some other member take it home. You do not have to bring a book to be able to take one home, but it would be nice if you did.

Scene Event 2013: We are in the early stages of planning for a smaller, one-day event on **March 16, 2013** than the full-blown conference we had this year. Watch for more details to be announced. ***The board is also interested in anyone willing to help with the event. Contact any of the board members listed on the last page of the newsletter to volunteer or ask for more information.***

Scene Conference 2014: We are in the very early stages of planning for our bi-annual bigger conference. ***If you are interested in being on the planning committee, helping with the conference, or being on the committee, please contact any of the board members.***

Area Writers' Meetings

The Cowley County Writers Guild meets the third Thursday of every month, with the next meeting July 19 at 6:30 pm at the Ark City Public Library. They are passionate about writing, reading, and life. You do not have to be a published author to attend. Contact Carol at 620-442-6112 or email cjmartin62@yahoo.com with questions.

Wichita Area Romance Authors meets the second Sunday of every month, with exceptions for conflicts with holidays, at 4:00 pm at 4643 S. Laura, Wichita. The next meeting will be July 8. For more information see <http://www.warawriters.com/>

Kansas Authors Club: District 5 meets the second Saturday of every month, with exceptions. For information on the group and their meetings contact Susan Howell at howell@kansastraveler.com

KWA Writers

Have you ever been curious about the types of writers who belong to KWA? Our membership includes the following interests:

- Memoir and personal essays
- Non-fiction and article writing
- Fictional biography
- Script writing and Play writing
- YA (Young Adult)
- Writing for children
- Inspirational writing
- Fiction: Action/Adventure, Crime, Fantasy, Horror, Mystery, Paranormal, Political Suspense, Sci-Fi, Thriller, Women's Fiction
- Romance: Contemporary, Historical, Romantic Suspense

Member Blogs & Websites

Andrew Aldrich, aka Cade Russell: Author of Western fiction (<http://www.caderussell.com/>)

H. B. Berlow: The Tikiman Says (<http://tikiman1962.wordpress.com/>)

Sonny Collins: Storyteller, author, poet (<http://www.authorsden.com/visit/author.asp?id=94965>)

Starla Criser: Owner of website with writer's tools and tips: **From Rubbish to Publish** (<http://rubbishtopublish.com/>)

Starla Criser, aka Starla Kaye: Author of sensual romance books and novellas (<http://starlakaye.com/>) now on Pinterest (<http://pinterest.com/starlakaye>)

Starla Criser: Author of relationship stories about people over 55 (<http://starlacriser.com/>)

Bonnie Myrick Eaton, aka B. J. Myrick: Author of *Out of Control*. Currently creating a new website.

K. T. Hanna: Fantasy writer and producer of a gaming podcast (<http://kthanna.livejournal.com/>)

Hazel Hart: Steps on the journey (<http://blog.seasonedaspirer.com/>)

Linda Hutchins: aka Linda Marie (www.queenofspecialarchetypes.com)

Conrad Jestmore: Mystery author and poet (www.conradjestmore.com)

Gordon Kessler: Author of thriller fiction and **eBook and ePublishing** (<http://www.gordonkessler.com>); Indie Writers Alliance (<http://www.indiewritersalliance.com>); Readers Matrix (<http://www.readersmatrix.com>); The Writer's Matrix (<http://www.writersmatrix.com>)

Keyhole Conversations: <http://2tgr.wordpress.com/>

Mike Klaassen: Author of YA action/adventure novels (<http://www.mikeklaassen.com/>)

Samantha LaFantasie: My journey of my life: a woman, mother, wife and writer (<http://samanthalafantasie.com/>)

Marilyn Hope Lake: Author of children's books, short fiction and plays (<http://compassrosepublications.com/>)

Marsha Lytle: Contemporary romance author of *Kylie's Song* (<http://lytle.m.wordpress.com>), (<http://kylie.ssong.wordpress.com>)

Carol Martin: Female in Motion (<http://fim-carol.blogspot.com/>)

April Pameticky: April in Wichita (<http://aprilpameticky.wordpress.com/>)

Erin Perry O'Donnell: Professional Writer. Amateur Mom (<http://www.odcreative.com/>)

Ray "Grizzly" Racobs: Author and columnist (<http://www.grizzlysbooks.com/>)

B. D. Tharp: Author of *Feisty Family Values* (<http://bdtharp.com/>)

Richard Walkup: Author and essayist (<http://richardwalkup.com/>)

Michael Watson: Author of *The Nestorian Alliance, A Jack Trader Adventure* (<http://www.adventurewithmike.com>)

Jae Byrd Wells: Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Jae.Byrd.Wells>)

Makayla Yokley: The Forgotten Kingdom (<http://theforgotten-kingdom.webs.com/>)

NOTE: If you would like to share your writing-related or author's website or blog, please contact newsletter@kwawriters.org. **YOU MUST BE A KWA MEMBER TO BE LISTED.**

KWA 2012 Prose and Poetry Contest

Opens Aug. 1, 2012

FEES PER ENTRY

Adult KWA Member: \$7
Non-member Adult (over 18): \$10
College students (full time, any age): \$5
Youth (Grades K-12): \$5* (Discounted rates for multiple entries from schools)

PRIZES

First Place: \$50
Second Place: \$25
Third Place: \$10
Honorable Mention: Certificates will be awarded at the judge's discretion

Categories

ADULT DIVISION – PROSE

- **FIRST CHAPTER** – Or chapters, up to 3,000 words. If you wish to include a prologue or synopsis, it will count toward the word limit.
- **SHORT FICTION** – Any subject, 2,000 word limit
- **SHORT STORIES FOR YOUTH** – By adults for young adult/youth audience. 2,000 word limit. Fiction or non-fiction.
- **NON-FICTION** – Articles, essays, memoirs, etc. with a 2,000 word limit. Any subject.
- **HUMOR**—Fiction and non-fiction work will be accepted, 2,000 word limit

ADULT DIVISION – POETRY

- **RHYMED POETRY** – 40-line limit, firm. Single spaced, double between stanzas.
- **FREE VERSE** – 40-line limit, firm. Single spaced, double between stanzas.

YOUTH DIVISION – writers age 18 and under

- **PROSE: FICTION/NON-FICTION** — 2,000 word limit, any subject
- **POETRY: RHYMED/FREE VERSE** (denote style) — 40-line limit. Single spaced, double between stanzas

ENTRY FORMATTING

- Use 12 point Times New Roman font on 8 ½ x 11-inch white paper.
- Double space all prose. Single space poetry stanzas.
- Attach cover page to include contestant's name, address, email and phone number, along with title and category of each entry included.
- Omit name from pages of work to be judged.

RULES

- All entries must be original and unpublished work.
- Five entries (minimum) are needed to qualify for judging any category. This does not mean an individual has to send in five entries, but a total of at least five must be received before the category will be judged and places picked.
- Entrants' work will be judged on literary merit and judges' decisions will be final. All places may not be awarded.
- Entries will be graded down for poor grammar or disregard for common writing practices (unless it's part of the writing theme). Enlist others to help in proofreading your work. Disregard for any of the rules will not be condoned.
- The entry and judge's critique sheet will be returned if a proper sized, self-addressed envelope with adequate postage is included with the entry. If only the critique is desired, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope with entry.
- The decision of the judges is final. No entrant will be awarded more than one of the money prize spots for any one category. Writers are eligible to win one of the top spots in multiple categories.
- No obscene or X-rated material will be judged. If you aren't sure about the suitability of your work, don't send it in.

Questions? Email contest@kwawriters.org.

Highlights from June's Program: Dialog—Internalization—Narration

Some Important Definitions

****NOTE:** “dialog” is the American spelling and “dialogue” is the UK spelling.

Narration: The story teller communicates the story; “tells.”

Exposition: The author relays needed background information, description, explanation, interpretation, and introduces characters. This is done by *static exposition*, “telling” the situation, characters and setting. Or it can be done by *real time depiction* of story action, “showing.”

Dialog: A conversation between two or more people or characters; the “shows.”

Internal Dialog: (internalization) A character speaks his/her thoughts to himself/herself; internal monologue.

Direct Internalization: A character’s given directly, word for word, in present tense and first person

Introspection: Conveying the character’s own thoughts, feelings, and sensations, internal inspection.

DIALOG

Must accomplish one of three things:

1. Move the story forward
2. Give information
3. Help with characterization

Characterization Help: Giving each character his/her own voice or speaking style. Differences vary on gender, age, personality, social status, education, geographical location, historical era, etc.

- Professionals may use more correct English and longer sentences. Others may use rougher language, a lot of one- or two-word questions or answers, sprinkled with expletives.
- Personality differences can include: Shy or outgoing? Talkative or quiet? Formal or casual? Modern or old-fashioned? Confident or nervous? Tactful or blunt? Serious or lighthearted? Relaxed or stressed?
- Gender differences can include: men are terser and more direct; prefer to talk about things rather than people or feelings; and they often use brief or one-word answers. Women talk about people and relationships; hint at or talk around a subject; tend to express themselves in more complete sentences; and often want to discuss their feelings.

Can also:

- Foreshadow upcoming events
- Make events more vivid
- Give life to characters and their relationships with others

ers

- Speed up action – short, snappy, abrupt dialogue shows tension

Important Shoulds:

- Should *read* like real speech, but leave out the boring parts, the filler words, and unessential dialogue that doesn’t contribute to the plot in some way
- Should include emotional or sexual tension and subtext. Silence, interrupting, or abruptly changing the subject can be effective in dialog

INTERNALIZATION

Purposes of Internalization:

- Get the reader to identify and empathize with the POV character
- Reveal emotional depth
- Help to establish internal conflicts
- Gives the POV character’s slant on the setting, other characters, the situation, conflict, and emotional ties

MECHANICS OF WRITING INTERNALIZATION

- Never use quotation marks around a character’s thoughts.
- Use italicized text **ONLY** for direct internal thoughts spelled out word for word, written in first person, present tense. Do **NOT** tag internalized thoughts.

NARRATION

Purposes of Narration:

- Show action
- Provide important backstory
- Give clues of the character’s growth
- Give details of something about the characters, scene, or plot that can’t come out in dialogue
- Let the reader imagine what the POV character sees and experiences in a situation or setting
- Give the reader a breather from the fast pace

NARRATIVE DON'Ts

- Don’t write too much narrative that doesn’t add to the storyline.
- Don’t describe something in detail that could be more simply stated in dialogue.
- In memoirs, don’t bog down the narrative summary by telling too much, showing too little.

Internet Resources

MARKETING

Marketing for Romance Writers Group: The group is focused on learning marketing and publicity. They discuss ways to advance careers, brainstorm new ventures and ideas, and get feedback about mutual promotion. <http://bit.ly/OnyQyP> and the Yahoo group <http://yhoo.it/NxGvFQ>

“Get Incoming Links to Your Author Website” article from The Savvy Book Marketer. <http://bit.ly/MQnQ96>

“7 Ways to Turn Your Blog Into a Content Marketing Machine” article by The Savvy Book Marketer. <http://bit.ly/LpzkOE>

“Stumbling on New Readers” article on Marketing Tips. <http://bit.ly/LNgC4D>

The Ultimate Guide to Facebook Marketing <http://bit.ly/LzEk9I>

Podcasting-it’s not that difficult blog post by Leigh Barbour. <http://bit.ly/Mnn1Ik>

How to Write a Kickass Author Bio from Promo-Ho. <http://bit.ly/MYmiYE>

TITLES

How to Create a Memorable Book Title from ehow.com <http://bit.ly/LzGjLI>

How to Write a Poem Title from ehow.com <http://bit.ly/M18Etz>

How to Write a Non-Fiction Book Title from ehow.com <http://bit.ly/MQvGI9>

How to Create an Effective Book Title from Cathy Stucker’s Selling Books. <http://bit.ly/LdTLA1>

Creating Book Titles-From Working Title to Final Title by Susan Kendrick. <http://bit.ly/LpE9HW>

PEN NAMES

How to Create a Pen Name by ehow.com <http://bit.ly/NJaRce>

How to Legally Establish a Pen Name by ehow.com <http://bit.ly/MrIbCT>

How to Copyright a Book With a Pen Name by ehow.com <http://bit.ly/LO8oLn>

Author Pen Names from squidoo. <http://bit.ly/L00odO>

What and How Can I Create a Meaningful Pen Name? <http://yhoo.it/MrJiGE>

Conferences & Contests

Conferences

Buzz Books Summer Oasis Writers' Retreat 2012

July 21 — Guthrie, OK

Workshops with author and executive editor Malena Lott, with senior editor Mari Farthing; a panel with publicist Cyndy Hoenig, social Media Manager Dani Stone, and brand strategist Malena Lott. Registration: \$39. Location: 323 W. Cleveland, Guthrie, OK (the Magnolia Moon). Info at: <http://bit.ly/MPYpXg>

Dragon Con

August 31-September 3 — Atlanta, GA

The largest multi-media, popular culture convention focusing on science fiction and fantasy, gaming, comics, literature, art, music, and film. **Writer's Two Day Intensive Workshop 2012 with Jody Lynn Nye.** Registration: \$250 (members), \$350 (non-members). Info at: <http://bit.ly/MyRxet>

Kansas Authors Club 2012 State Writing Conference & Convention

October 5-7 — Salina, KS

A variety of workshops on creative nonfiction and writing for anthologies, writing a novel, writing flash fiction and narrative poems, self-publishing, songwriting, and more. Registration: \$80. Location: Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1616 W. Crawford St., Salina, KS. Info at: <http://bit.ly/LznLJ9>

Ozark Creative Writers Annual Conference

October 11-13 — Eureka Springs, AR

A small variety of workshops on polishing your work for an agent, writing for young adults, marketing yourself as a writer, and more. Registration: \$99-\$145 (before August 31). Info at: <http://bit.ly/MyTmrN>

2012 Screenwriters World Conference

October 19-21 — Hollywood, CA

Learn from major screenwriting experts, get feedback from Hollywood execs, agents and producers, hone your pitching skills at the Pitch Slam, and more. Registration: \$495. Info at: <http://bit.ly/KZLnIT>

Magna cum Murder XVIII

October 26-28 — Muncie, IN

Lovers of crime writing will enjoy a weekend of panels, programs, interviews, and presentations by 40 or so of their favorite writers. Attendees include crime fiction authors, fans, booksellers, and publishing industry professionals. Registration: \$250. Info at: <http://bit.ly/MnaWTK>

Tony Hillerman Writers Conference

November 8-10 — Santa Fe, NM

Workshops on pacing your book, writing with humor, all about eBooks, from book to screen, digital publishing, and more. Registration: \$395 (before Sept 22). Info at: <http://bit.ly/LdHPON>

Contests

Gival Press Short Story Award

Deadline: August 8

Entries must be previously unpublished, original short story 5,000-15,000 words of high literary quality. Info at: <http://bit.ly/LpINXw>

JULY 2012

Kansas Writers Association

P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles and member news by the 20th of the month to Starla Criser at newsletter@kwawriters.org or to our address above. Put "KWA" in the subject line for emails, and send information in the body of the email, not as an attachment.

Join KWA

Membership July 1 through Dec. 31, 2012, includes our monthly newsletter and discounts on KWA programs. Current dues for **new and renewing members** are \$15 for a mailed newsletter, \$10 for an emailed newsletter, and \$0 for youth 18 and under. Join online at www.kwawriters.org (click on Membership), or download the form there and send it with payment to **P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201**.

2012 KWA Board Members

President - Gordon Kessler, president@kwawriters.org

Vice President - Ray "Grizzly" Racobs, vp@kwawriters.org

Secretary - April Pameticky, secretary@kwawriters.org

Treasurer - Starla Criser, treasurer@kwawriters.org

Newsletter -- Starla Criser, newsletter@kwawriters.org

Electronic Communications - April Pameticky, web@kwawriters.org

Contest Coordinator—Samantha LaFantasie, contest@kwawriters.org

Promotions - Janet Bahl, pr@kwawriters.org

Scene Conference Chair - , scene@kwawriters.org

Youth Advisor - Makayla Yokley, youth@kwawriters.org

Member At Large - Sonny Collins, board@kwawriters.org

Member At Large - H. B. Berlow, board@kwawriters.org

Our mission: to inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

The Kansas Writers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

<http://www.kwawriters.org>