

KWA

Celebrating our 15th year

Kansas Writers Association

all genres. all formats. ALL WRITERS.

JULY 2011

Volume 15, Issue 7

Editor: Starla Criser

July 16 – 1:30-4:00 pm – Rockwell Library – Editing and Revisions

Our program for the July monthly meeting will focus on Editing and Revisions. Erin O'Donnell and Gordon Kessler will present the program and lead the discussions.

KWA's monthly meeting format will change starting in July. This new modified meeting schedule is mindful of our members' busy schedules and time constraints on Saturday afternoons. Basically, this means that the actual meeting times will not change (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM), and we'll still do important announcements and greetings to start off, but we'll get to our scheduled program a lot sooner than in recent months, leaving a good portion of the networking and other exercises and discussions till the end.

Calendar

- July 16: **Editing and Revisions**
- August 20: **Promotion and The Business of Writing**
- September 17 **Submission or Self-Publishing**
- October 15: **TBA**
- October 15: Possible Bonus**—Road trip to Cully Abrell's after the monthly meeting
- November 19: **Contests: Pros, Cons, and Preparation**; member readings
- December 17: **Holiday Party**

New Members

Samuel Banzel
Heather Cashman
Robert Everett
William Johnson
Judson Klein
Don Marler
Jean O'Roark



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Gordon A. Kessler

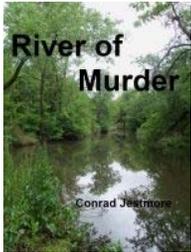
We had another great meeting in June, with a larger turnout than we've seen in several months. Starla gave a bunch of good info on sensory details and, for those who missed the meeting, she's treated you to much of it inside this very newsletter. Thank all of you for

making this pre-summer meeting a success!

Also, a number of us carried the fun out to Cully Abrell's Tahitian Room afterward and were treated to Cully's great summer chili, roast chicken, and some great conversation and screenplay scene readings. Does the fun ever stop with KWA? I hope not!

Lastly, I have an important announcement to make: Seti Walker has resigned from her position as KWA Vice President and will be replaced by long-time KWA member Phyllis Rowland. Seti stated that she will continue to support KWA at meetings, other functions and KWA's blog. The KWA board would like to convey its deep appreciation to Seti for the work she's done for KWA in the past and will undoubtedly do in the future.

Member News

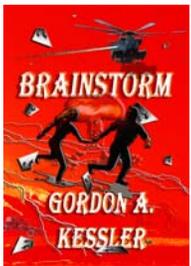


Conrad Jestmore has had his mystery *River of Murder* published as an ebook. It is available to sample for free, or to purchase and download to your computer, Kindle, or Nook at <http://www.smashwords.com/b/63121>. It

will be available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites within a few weeks.

Kelly Johnston's poem, *Mountains of Memories*, won third place in the 2011 Kansas Authors Club District 2 Poetry contest.

Starla Criser, aka Starla Kaye, is now hosting guest romance authors on her website's blog on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You are invited to stop by and read the posts at <http://starlakaye.com>.



Gordon Kessler has announced his latest thriller novel, *Brainstorm*, is scheduled to be released in audiobook July 15 and should be available from iTunes yet this month. This follows the novel's eBook release in June in all of the most popular eBook formats

including Kinde, Kobo, Nook, and Sony, for tablets like iPad and Xoom, and even cell phone applications.

His novels *Dead Reckoning* and *Jezebel* have also been released as eBooks, along with his short stories "Jack Knight" and "Toothpick for Two." All three of his novels and his two short stories can be found on www.Amazon.com, www.ReadersMatrix.com and www.Smashwords.com. Additionally, his novels are available in paperback and hardcover through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Borders.

Gordon states that the recent advent of eBook publishing along with POD have given "Indie Writers" opportunities that could not have been imagined only a year ago, allowing them to compete

with brand-name and bestselling authors.

Gordon plans to hold eBook publishing and promotion strategy sessions after the monthly KWA meetings at the Green Mill Restaurant at Kellogg and Rock Rd. He invites all KWA members and other writers interested in eBook and independent publishing to attend.

You can find more info on his websites www.GordonKessler.com and www.ReadersMatrix.com (where you can soon view actual book trailers of all three of his novels), on www.IndieWritersAlliance.com and www.WritersMatrix.com, and follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gordon.kessler1, LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/gordon-kessler/27/420/626>, his own blog at www.gordonkessler.com/blog, and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/gordonkessler or just email him at Gordon@gordonkessler.com.



*Fun at
Cully's*



Using Sensory Details—Starla Criser

In order to bring your story to life, you should provide as many sensory details as possible. This is another part of the “showing” versus “telling” issue.

The Five Senses (The physiological ways in which we perceive something.)

- **Sight:** How we *see* something and perceive it via a reaction between the eyes and the brain.
- **Sound:** How we *hear* something and perceive it audibly by vibrations in the eardrum.
- **Taste:** How we *taste* something and perceive it in a chemical reaction on the taste buds using one of the four types of tastes: sweet, salt, sour, and bitter.
- **Smell:** How we *smell* something and perceive it in a chemical reaction using olfactory receptors.
- **Touch:** How we *touch* something and perceive it using the neural receptors in the skin, hair follicles, tongue, throat, and mucosa.

Using the senses in writing

- **Sight:** What something looks like, where it is located, and how the character “sees” it.
- **Sound:** What a character hears in a scene, from a single sound to a cacophony of sounds.
- **Taste:** What a character experiences through eating or a memory of eating something. This is seldom used in all scenes.
- **Smell:** What a character smells in a scene. Often the sense of smell and taste are together.
- **Touch:** What textures a character feels in a scene.

Tips on when to use sensory details

- Use only the particular sensory details that are important to bring a scene to life for the reader.

- Sight is the most needed sensory description.
- Sound is the second most needed sensory description.

It is not necessary to use all five senses in describing a scene. Too much description will slow down the reading and lose the reader’s interest.

Other descriptive details to engage the reader

- **Movement:** Animals, including humans, depend on reactions to movement around them. A reader’s attention is snagged when movement is incorporated into a scene. *Example:* The butterfly fluttered through the rose garden.
- **Color:** Using specific descriptions of color can help the reader “see” whatever is described better. *Example:* The blood red rose drew her attention.
- **Similes:** Using two unlike things in a comparison to describe something. *Example:* She defended her child like a lioness defending her cub.
- **Metaphors:** Describing a person or object by referring to something with similar characteristics to the person or object being described. *Example:* The city is a jungle.

Links to good sensory detail descriptions

The Bookshelf Muse: <http://www.thebookshelfmuse.blogspot.com>

An excellent list for descriptions of settings using the five senses, with lists of emotional descriptions as well.

Descriptive Words: <http://www.msgarrettonline.com/descripwords.html>

A good list of different descriptive words for sound, touch and texture, color and visual qualities, smell, pattern and shape.

Promoting Tips & Internet Resources for Writers—Starla Criser

RECOMMENDED YAHOO GROUPS

Publishing and Promoting

This is an international group of authors, publishers, editors, publicists and others involved in the book industry. Posts deal with the final stages of book production and pre- and post-release marketing strategies. Members share tips, innovative promotions, new marketing avenues, and successes. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/publishingandpromoting/>

Criminal Minds

For those interested in crime, mystery, and suspense stories. Forensics, police procedures, criminal profiling, psychology, the judicial and penal systems, the death penalty, youth violence, serial killers, gangs, cults, militia groups, crime technology. Tips, news, reviews for writers, and sharing your publication news. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/criminalminds/>

All About Murder

For readers and writers interested in talking about books and writing related to crime, true crime, suspense, mystery, thrillers, or romantic suspense. To share interesting articles, share what you're reading, movies, TV. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allaboutmurder/>

Murder Must Advertise

For authors wondering how to promote their mystery book. Trade ideas and practical tips for touring, direct mail. Advertising, and online promotion. No matter what your genre, you can benefit from this wealth of information. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/murdermustadvertise/>

Crime Scene Writer

A forum for asking and answering crime scene investigation, applied forensics, and police procedure questions for fiction and non-fiction writers. Ask questions of crime scene investigators, forensic scientists, and medical practitioners. <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/crimescenewriter/>

Write Clique

A forum to cover all forms of writing—copy writing, screenwriting, news, feature articles, online content, fic-

tion, and book projects as well as illustrations. <http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/WriteClique/>

Screenwriting

The ultimate gathering place for professional and “new” screenwriters to discuss the industry and network. <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/screenwriting/>

Hollywood Screenwriters

For all screenwriters who want to sell a movie script to Hollywood to exchange ideas, information and brainstorm. <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/hollywoodscreenwriters/>

NEWSLETTERS

Marketing Matters Newsletter

A free, bi-weekly marketing sales ezine with all kinds of tips, brief articles, and information on free webinars for writers. <http://www.bookmarketingworks.com/mktgmattersnews/>

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

Backspace—The Writer's Place

An organization for writers at all stages of their career with forums, monthly online Q&As with literary agents, acquisitions editors, publicists, book reviewers and bestselling authors, query letter workshops with agents offering comments, an in-house short story contest, and more. \$40 annual fee. <http://www.bksp.org/>

TV Writer.com

Larry Brody's Guide to Writing for the Medium Everyone Loves to Hate. There are all kinds of writing classes for the TV writer, message boards, contests for aspiring TV writers., and lots of resources. <http://tvwriter.com/>

Crime Spot.net

For lovers of private eye fiction. Lists of mystery blogs. <http://www.crimespot.net/>

Market News: Contests & Other Opportunities

MARKETS

Need2Know

An independent publisher is seeking authors to write guides on a variety of subjects in four categories: Health Based Subjects, Education Based Subjects, Writing Based Subjects, and Hobby Based Subjects. For more information on their proposal guidelines and sample copies of existing titles contact need2knowoffice@gmail.com.

Rebel Ink Press

A small, independent publisher of romance is now open for submissions in all genres of romance from young adult to sizzling erotica. For submission guidelines: <http://www.rebelinkpress.com/submission-info.html>.

Self Published Bookstore

A site dedicated to selling and marketing self-published books and ebooks. They offer help with marketing, a blog, Hot Tips for Self-Published Authors, an Author's Spotlight, and more. <http://selfpublishedbookstore.com>.

CONTESTS

Writers on the Influence of Cinema

Calavera Press is preparing an upcoming ebook anthology with the proceeds to benefit the Joplin Schools Tornado Relief Fund. They are seeking contest submissions on film and writing. Three winning essays will be included in the anthology. Deadline: July 22, 2011. For information on where to submit: <http://writersontheinfluenceofcinema.submishmash.com/Submit>.

Narrative Magazine Spring 2011 Story Contest

The contest is open to all fiction and nonfiction writers. They are looking for short stories, short shorts, essays, memoirs, photo essays, graphic stories, one-act plays, all forms of literary nonfictions, and excerpts from longer works of both fiction and nonfiction. Deadline: July 31, 2011. For information and guidelines: <http://www.narrativemagazine.com/node/129337>.

RosettaBooks: The Galaxy Project

RosettaBooks, a digital publisher, has announced The Galaxy Project contest to discover science fiction writing talent in connection with its release of new electronic editions of selections from the classic science fiction magazine *Galaxy*. Deadline: September 2, 1011. For information and contest submission form: www.thegalaxyproject.com.

The Fourth Annual Life Lessons Essay Contest

Real Simple magazine is seeking entries for their annual contest. Essays are to be in response to "When did you first understand the meaning of love?" This can be a child witnessing a generous act by your father or mother; a lesson from a challenge of being a friend, a spouse, or a parent; or whatever other experience made you understand love. Deadline: September 15, 2011. For contest details: <http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/life-strategies/inspiration-motivation/second-annual-life-lessons-essay-contest-0000000013682/>.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Writing Program

Spalding University in Louisville, KY offers a four-semester, brief-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with studies in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for children and young adults, screenwriting, and playwriting. For more information: <http://www.spalding.edu/fma>.

CONFERENCE

Writers' Police Academy: Sept. 23-25, 2011

Guilford Technical Community College and Public Safety Training Academy, Jamestown, North Carolina. The conference offers hands-on, interactive and educational experience for writers to understand all aspects of law enforcement and forensics. For more information: <http://writerspoliceacademy.com>.

JUNE 2011

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 through Dec. 31, 2011, includes our monthly newsletter and discounts on KWA programs. Current prorated dues for **new members** are \$13 for a mailed newsletter, \$10 for an emailed newsletter, and \$6 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**.

2011 KWA Board Members

President - Gordon Kessler, president@kwawriters.org

Vice President - Phyllis Rowland, vp@kwawriters.org

Secretary - Starla Criser, secretary@kwawriters.org

Treasurer - Mikelle Fraizer, treasurer@kwawriters.org

Newsletter -- Starla Criser, newsletter@kwawriters.org

Website Coordinator - Erin O'Donnell, web@kwawriters.org

Promotions - KT Hanna, pr@kwawriters.org

Scene Conference Chair - Erin O'Donnell, scene@kwawriters.org

Youth Advisor - Ray "Grizzly" Racobs, youth@kwawriters.org

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

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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>