



Kansas Writers Association

Celebrating our 16th year

all genres. all formats. ALL WRITERS.

SEPTEMBER 2012

September 15 — 1:30-4:00 pm — Rockwell Library

Member Readings

This is a special meeting, a time when our members and visitors get a chance to read their own work.

If you would like to be one of the readers, we ask that you bring no more than five pages whether it is prose or poetry. You will have up to five minutes to read and receive feedback and comments from your fellow writers. It is important to respect the time frame of the meeting and allow as many readers as possible. There will be a sign up sheet. If you are not planning to read, then be prepared to offer your helpful feedback and comments to help your fellow writers to make their works better.



President's Remarks

H. B. Berlow

As writers, we cherish The Word. We sweat over it, stare at a page to look for it, and sometimes cry over it. We praise language, seek for meanings underneath meanings, and construct sentences that become chapters that evolve into stories. Ultimately, we long to see our words printed (or, in the case of e-publishing, transmitted). The definition of success is the notion of someone reading our words.

But ask any musician and they will tell you about the sound of words, their rhythm and their beauty. Over 17 years ago, I wrote an extended poetic piece based on the life of Charlie Parker, the great jazz saxophonist. I did it because I loved Be-Bop and also as a way to capture his sound with words.

This is why September's meeting is especially exciting for me. When our members and visitors get a chance to read their own work, The Word will take on an entirely new meaning. And even more important, the pride of the author will have a chance to come out and we will all hear how meaningful that work is.

We ask that you bring no more than five pages and respect the time frame of the meeting. There will be a sign up sheet so we can gauge how much time we can allot. If you are not planning to read, then be prepared to offer your feedback and comments and help your fellow writers to make their works better.

Volume 16, Issue 9

Editor: Starla Criser

Calendar

- **Sept 15:** Member readings
- **Oct 20:** Complicating the black moment
- **Nov 17:** Tom Mach, guest author
- **Dec 15:** Party time!

New Members

Nancy Avery

Kristine MacWither

James Soper

Member News



Jennifer Jean Alderson now has her book *Brazil* available at Amazon as either a paperback or an ebook. <http://amzn.to/NPqBwH>

Starla Criser aka Starla Kaye had her short story *The Cowboy's Bride* published the end of August. This is the first story from her upcoming anthology from Black Velvet Seductions, *Devils in Denim*.

Keyhole Conversations with Hazel Hart and Bonnie Eaton: Two pitching sessions by KWA members at the July meeting.

Writers on the Spot, **Makayla Yokley** and **April Pameticky**. <http://bit.ly/Qitmge>

The Ten Minute Challenge, two KWA authors pitching their books-**Conrad Jestmore** and **Darin Eliott**. <http://bit.ly/PI0k53>

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.

Newsletter Articles Request

We are going to expand the newsletter in the upcoming months, depending upon article submissions from our members. If you are willing to help with this and would like to see your byline in the newsletter, please submit your article(s) to newsletter@kwawriters.org.

Possible Subjects for Articles:

- Promotion, unique opportunities
- Blogging
- Writing blurbs, pitches, query letters
- Using social media

Area Writers' Meetings

The Cowley County Writers Guild meets the third Thursday of every month, with the next meeting September 15 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 September 9. 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

In Memoriam: Colleen Kelly Johnston

Fellow KWA members, I regret to inform you of the passing of a cornerstone of our organization. Colleen Kelly Johnston was a great friend, a tireless advocate for writers of all types, and a wonderful person. She died Saturday, August 18.

Colleen supported the Kansas Writers Association since our very first public meeting in 1996. She was not only a charter member, past board member, past president, and a long-time KWA contest chair, but she was also a recipient of the KWA's Dale German Award, making her one of our first lifetime members. This award was given to special people in order to recognize their tremendous efforts in helping writers.

I cannot say enough about my dear friend Colleen. She was an inspiration to every writer who knew her and was always willing to support them in their efforts. Please take a moment to review her obituary, here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansas/obituary.aspx?n=colleen-marie-kelly-johnston&pid=159316377#fbLoggedOut>. Then please take another moment to reflect on this wonderful woman's life, and be thankful that we were fortunate enough for her to be involved in ours.

May her words never die, and may her spirit live forever in the Kansas Writers Association. Rest with our love and in peace, Colleen.

Gordon Kessler

Member Blogs & Websites

Jennifer Alderson: Blog-kohl Hadassah bat Alderson (<http://aldersoj.blogspot.com>)

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

H. B. Berlow: The Tikiman Says (<http://tikiman1962.wordpress.com/>) Books and all things Tiki at <http://hbberlow.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: Mom and Wife by day, Writer by night (<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.wordpress.com>), (<http://kyliesong.wordpress.com>)

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

Scott Moon: Dragon Badge Books (<http://www.dragonbadgebooks.com>)

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

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

Louise Pelzl: aka Louise Z. Minor: (<http://zminor.com/>)

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

David Span: Blog (<http://davidspan.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/>) Author of *The Ruby Curse*

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 — Deadline: Postmarked by December 31, 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** – Submit up to 3,000 words which may include a prologue of any fictional genre. If you wish to send a synopsis, it must be no longer than 500 words. It is not necessary and will not be judged.
- **SHORT FICTION** – Submit up to 2,000 words of any fictional genre.
- **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

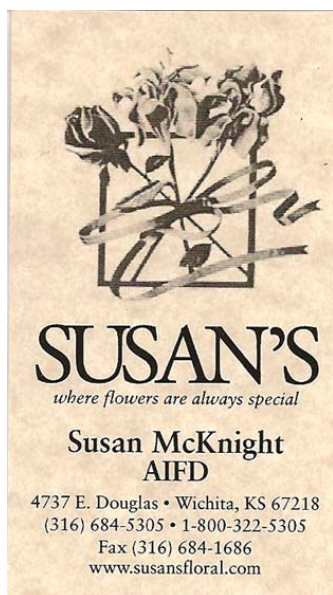
- Use 12 point Times New Roman font on 8 ½ x 11-inch white paper.
- Double space all prose. Single space poetry stanzas.
- Attach cover page to include contestant's name, address, email and phone number, along with title and category of each entry included.
- Omit name from pages of work to be judged.

RULES

- All entries must be original and unpublished work. Work that has been partially published in any manner on a blog, website, Facebook, or excerpted anywhere is NOT eligible. Nor is work that has been made into a book trailer.
- There must be a total of five submissions in a category for it to be judged. This does NOT mean an entrant must submit five entries. Should there not be enough qualified entries, the entries and fees will be returned.
- The contest does not accept erotica or x-rated material in any form, or for any particular categories.
- 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.
- 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.

Questions? Email contest@kwawriters.org. Mail Entries to: KWA Contest Submission, 9415 E. Harry, #603, Wichita, KS 67207

2012 Contest Sponsors



Grizzly's Books

Ray "Grizzly" Racobs
401 N. Lorraine
Wichita, KS 67214
raylynda.racobs@cox.net
grizzlysbooks.com

Grizzly's This 'n That

Oro, The Incredible Dog

Oro, The "Tail" Contin

316-734-7813



Highlights from August's Program: Thinking Outside the Box

By H.B. Berlow

Why is it that people tell you not to try something different? Is it because they think you'll fail? Or because what you're trying to do is just so out of the realm of the usual that it almost doesn't make sense?

Well, that's why you're a writer. Remember: doing something the same way all the time and expecting different results is crazy.

Looking for an agent used to be as easy as getting the latest copy of the thickest book you could find that listed every agent, editor, and publisher known to mankind. The problem is that once it was printed, it was practically obsolete. Writer's Market offers an online service for a monthly fee that is updated regularly. In the Digital Age, that's called Real Time.

But take it one step further. Figure out what books are similar to yours. Go on to Amazon.com and look those books up. There is a section called CUSTOMERS WHO BOUGHT THIS ITEM ALSO BOUGHT. Now, you have more books similar to yours. A Google search will help identify the agents.

You know you need a platform. So, you start with Facebook, then add a Twitter feed, and ultimately get a Website or a Blog. Independently, they will not draw in as large a crowd as you might think. You have to make sure your Blog posts automatically hit Twitter and get onto Facebook. More importantly, you want to have something to say.

But why just post commentary and profound thoughts? Consider the visual components as a substantial way to impress your targeted audience. Book trailers are a relatively easy thing to create on your own. Windows Movie Maker, your digital camera, and some creative thought and you have just given your audience a tangible visual. Or a board on Pinterest with captions from your book. Show them scenes and locations. You might even take a photo of a person that resembles your main character.

The most important thing is that technology does not have to be used in a strict and rigid fashion. A typical household will have computers and digital cameras. From there, the possibilities are endless. As long as you network, keep in touch with other writers, musicians, artists, you will be able to expand beyond the box and even beyond your dreams.

Internet Resources

WRITING HELP

Using Real Life to Create Characters: <http://bit.ly/RPnzKI>

Writing with Passion and Purpose: <http://bit.ly/RdtPFi>

Wired For Story. Using Brain Science to Hook Readers: <http://bit.ly/NpZ592>

Writing About Death and Crime Scenes. <http://bit.ly/MU8PHc>

20 Tips for Writing Lovable Romance Novel Heroes: <http://bit.ly/U3Vxsi>

Writing Tips: Guns, Bullets and Shooting: <http://bit.ly/Pd7A1z>

Writing Fast is Overrated: <http://bit.ly/RmC5XZ>

MARKETING

Free Conference Pro: A free conference calling and recording service that writers can use. <http://bit.ly/QfloND>

Book Promotion Buddies: 5 Ways for Authors to Help Each Other Out. <http://bit.ly/OgMgsI>

Promoting With Flash Drives: Book Promotion Goes High Tech. <http://bit.ly/PJt8F1>

Should Authors Be Worried about eBook Lending? <http://bit.ly/PH0g2O>

What Authors Seem to Forget About Marketing: <http://bit.ly/Pd1fn4>

10 Marketing Strategies for New Writers: <http://bit.ly/SEhgJ3>

How Authors Can Use Social Media to Land An Agent: <http://bit.ly/RPv6Js>

Free and Low Cost Ways to Promote Your Book: <http://bit.ly/TelC5m>

Book Promotion: Directory of book promotion links. <http://bit.ly/Og4oEH>

Marketing Magic Muggle Writers Can Learn From J.K. Rowling's Pottermore: <http://bit.ly/RmzRrk>

How To Write a Query Letter: Tips from Molly Harper. <http://bit.ly/PI0slq>

7 Networking Tips for Authors: <http://bit.ly/PSGS2b>

WRITING-OTHER

Writer's Beware Page: A publishing industry watchdog group. <http://on.fb.me/PKulMI>

30 Indispensable Writing Tips from Famous Authors: <http://bit.ly/PcROE0>

50 Things I Learned at Thrillerfest 2012: <http://bit.ly/PggHUY>

7 Lessons for Writers from Leonardo Da Vinci: <http://bit.ly/ODsOZ4>

GENRE

Nine Things You Need to Know Before You Write Your Non-Fiction Book: <http://bit.ly/PH5lb8>

7 Mistakes to Avoid When Writing Your Memoir: <http://bit.ly/NviqA3>

Writing Historical Fiction: <http://bit.ly/QGsRAU>

Writing Steampunk Fiction: Tips. <http://bit.ly/OiqYdY>

Steampunk: A List of Themes: <http://bit.ly/NUIx60>

Five Ways to Hop on the Steampunk Writing Train: <http://bit.ly/Nq8RRU>

Markets, Conferences & Contests

Markets

Bottom Drawer Publications is a new ebook publisher of quality romantic and erotic fiction. They are seeking manuscripts from 5,000 to 90,000+ words. For details <http://www.bottomdrawerpublications.net/>

Decadent Publishing is seeking submissions of romantic historicals set in the British Isles, 50k or under. They are also looking for submissions for their Sci-fi multi-author series (Elatia) and their Western Escape series, and the new African (Ubuntu) line. There are additional lines for submissions. For details <http://bit.ly/OdSQSd>

EFiction Magazine is a well-read and received online publication. It is expanding its reach and now launching genre-specific magazines, including *eFiction Romance*, *Noir*, *Horror*, *Fantasy*, and *Sci-Fi*. They are accepting fiction, poetry and book review submissions. Submission guidelines at <http://efictionmag.submittable.com/submit>.

Silver Stream Press, a division of Silver Publishing, offers readers mainstream romance and fiction. These general audience stories offer content commonly found in traditional bookstores—romance, action, thriller, suspense and so much more while excluding explicit sexual or graphic content. Additionally, this division of their publishing umbrella offers *Young Adult* fiction. Although these stories are enjoyed by all age ranges, their content is tailored with teenage readers in mind. They are particularly interested in submissions of fantasy, adventure and steampunk. For submission guidelines <http://bit.ly/NSehr8>

Seminar

The Novelist: EBook Writing 2012 Seminar
September 8—Overland Park/Lenexa, Kansas

Location: Crown Plaza Hotel, 12601 W. 95th Street

Morning session topics include: "The Seven Secrets to Great Storytelling" (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon). Afternoon topics will include "Product, Image and Platform: Simple Strategies Proven to Maximize EBook Sales NOW!" (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

\$20 for single session or \$35 for both. Lunch NOT included. Seating is limited.

Contact writing coach, indie editor and thriller author Gordon Kessler at Gordon@GordonKessler.com for more information.

Register online at <http://www.IndieWritersAlliance.com> of <http://GordonKessler.com>

WSU Writing Now, Reading Now series

September 19—Ulrich Museum—6:30 p.m.

The 2012-2013 series sponsored by the Department of English opens with a fiction reading by K.L. Cook. Admission is free. Info on the series at <http://bit.ly/PSuP54>

October 1—Ulrich Museum—5:30 p.m.

A fiction reading by Pam Houston.

Conferences

Crossroads Writers Conference 2012

October 6—Macon, Georgia

The conference starts off October 5 with the Freelancers Summit, a special half day dedicated to freelance writers. Guests include novelists, screenwriters, poets, memoirists, comic book writers and freelancers. For information <http://www.crossroadswriters.org/conference/>

Kansas SCBWI Fall Conference

October 26-27—Overland Park

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference at Hyatt Place Kansas City. \$195 for nonmembers, \$170 for members. Info at <http://bit.ly/U3NETF>

Contests

The Missouri Review's 22nd Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize in Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction

The contest is open to emerging and established writers.

First place winners in each category receive a prize of \$5,000 plus a feature in their spring issue and paid travel to their gala reading and reception. Deadline: October 1st postmark. Information at <http://www.missourireview.com/tmrsubmissions/editors-prize-contest/>

Northwind Fall 2012 Story Contest

Now accepting original and unpublished short fiction and narrative non-fiction. Submissions may vary in length from 1,500 to 8,000 words (no flash fiction accepted). Deadline: October 15. Information at <http://bit.ly/NrvvZw>

SEPTEMBER 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 - H. B. Berlow, 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 Chairs— H. B. Berlow & April Pameticky, scene@kwawriters.org

Youth Advisor - Makayla Yokley, youth@kwawriters.org

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

Member At Large - Samantha LaFantasie, board@kwawriters.org

KWA Ambassador— Gordon Kessler

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>