

KWI: KANSAS WRITER'S INK

Newsletter Vol. 17 No. 10

October 18th, 2016

October Program Reminder

For the month of October, KWI is doing things a little differently. **We will not be meeting at the library on October 22nd**, but instead the group will be attending a presentation. MARA (Mid-America Romance Authors) has invited KWI members to attend a special pitch session on October 22nd. Piya Campana, Harlequin editor, will be at their next meeting and both members and guests are welcome to pitch their stories. The event will be held at the Prairie Village Community center in KCMO.

Piya Campana is an assistant editor for Harlequin Super-romance and Harlequin Heartwarming. She is lucky to work with a growing body of wonderful authors. She was an editorial intern at various houses before landing at Harlequin in 2008 in a proofreading role. Having always been addicted to the written word, Piya holds an Honors BA in English and Book and Media Studies from the University of Toronto and the certificate in publishing from Ryerson University. In her spare time she loves to travel, which is the perfect way to nurture her other obsessions: food and photography. She's looking to acquire emotionally complex contemporary romances with strong internal conflict and a larger story around the central relationship. Follow her on Twitter: @piyacampana

2016-2017 KWI Board Members

President: Billie-Renee Knight

Vice-President: Morgan Chilson

Secretary: Leslie Galbraith

Treasurer: Shayne Sawyer

Membership: Bobbie Johnston

Newsletter: Romie Chavez

Advisor to the President: Tish Glasson



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Writing Opportunities: CONTESTS NOW OPEN TO KANSAS PLAYWRIGHTS 13 AND OLDER Submitted by Billie-Renee Knight

Oct 10, 2016

Kansas writers can hear their play brought to life by experienced actors onstage at Wichita's iconic Community Theatre next year. The Reader's Theatre committee of the Wichita Community Theatre would like to invite Kansas playwrights to enter their 2017 search for full-length plays, with one contest focusing on writers aged 13-17 and a second for adults aged 18 and older. The prize for both is a public reading.

"We are thrilled to add a contest into our usual line-up of Readers' Theatre productions," said Dana Miotto, committee chair. "We have a strong history of readings and full productions from Wichita and area writers at our theater and I think this is a step in a positive direction and a great opportunity for local playwrights."

Wichita Community Theatre is an all-volunteer, non-profit community theatre organization established by Mary Jane Teall in 1946, that produces new and familiar work in their historic workshop and theatre, located at 2nd and Fountain in Wichita, Kansas. New plays take the boards regularly, but the two contests are new to the organization. Adult playwrights (18 and older) have a deadline that looms over the holidays, with their full-length scripts due by midnight, January 1, 2017. Teen writers have until April 15th to finish their plays.

Call for Entries - Adults

Deadline will be at midnight, January 1, 2017

The theatre is calling for full-length plays.

Submit your full-length play (minimum of 75-minute estimated run-time)

You are welcome to select your own topic, no restrictions

NO musicals, please

Please submit play in standard traditional play format, in English

Submissions must be original, unpublished full-length plays

Translations and adaptations are not accepted

No fee to enter

One script per playwright each contest, please

Please send your script with a short author's bio and contact information to readerstheatre@wichitact.org, preferably as a PDF.

Adult winner(s) and runners-up will be notified by Feb 1, 2017. Winners will attend the reading of their piece at 2 p.m., March 12, 2017. (Auditions are scheduled for Feb 26, 2017 followed by a rehearsal on March 11, 2017.)

Call for Entries - Teens

Deadline will be at midnight, April 15, 2017

The theatre is calling for full-length plays.

Submit your full-length play (no minimum or maximum estimated run-time)

You are welcome to select your own topic, no restrictions

NO musicals, please

Please submit play in standard traditional play format, in English

Submissions must be original, unpublished full-length plays

Translations and adaptations are not accepted, no fan fiction

No fee to enter

One script per playwright each contest, please

Playwright must be between the ages of 13-17 at midnight on April 15, 2017

Please send your script with a short author's bio and contact information to readerstheatre@wichitact.org, preferably as a PDF.

Teen winner(s) and runners-up will be notified by May 31st, 2017. Winners will attend the reading of their piece on July 23, 2017. (Auditions are scheduled for July 9, 2017 followed by a rehearsal on July 22, 2017.)

You MUST be either currently living in Kansas or the KC Metro Area to submit or be a former Kansas resident who retains ties to the state. If you are not living in Kansas at the time of submission, please note when you lived in Kansas and why you are no longer in the state in your bio (i.e. lived in Kansas from birth to 17, now in Oklahoma attending university).

Please ensure you will be able to attend if you win, as we want to ensure the playwright can fully reap the benefits and feedback of a public reading, said Miotto. We reserve the right not to choose a winner.

KWI RETREAT 2017

Yep, it's time to be thinking about next year's retreat. We've booked **April 7th, 8th and 9th at the Basswood Lodge**. This was the only time they had available. A **\$50.00 deposit** is required **by February 1st 2017** to secure your spot for the weekend.

This year we've established a '**Pick Your Bed**' for the first 10 members who get their deposits to Shayne. When she receives your check, she'll contact you to find out where in the Lodge you wish to sleep—she'll then reserve that spot for you.

Mail your deposits to:

Shayne Sawyer

2601 SW Western Ave

Topeka, KS 66611

KWI Holiday Party

Every year, KWI puts on a Holiday Party during the month of November. It is usually held the weekend before Thanksgiving, but this year we are having it on Saturday, November 12th. The Board is inviting all members to attend and partake in the festivities and food. Our Vice President, Morgan, has reserved a room for us at First Congregational Church (1701 SW Collins).

A highlight of the event is the gift exchange. We ask that members who attend bring an unwrapped gift. Members will conduct a mini-auction to help raise money for the group. Bring a covered dish or dessert of your choice.

We would like to give members enough notice to plan for this fun event as well as ensure we have enough room to accommodate everyone. If you're interested in attending, please R.S.V.P. by November 1st, 2016.

My 5 Biggest Takeaways from the Bestseller Summit

By Lily Ann Fouts

Earlier this month I flew to Nashville, Tennessee, to participate in the first annual Bestseller Summit, hosted by book marketing guru, Tim Grahl (timgrahl.com). My introvert-driven apprehension melted away as soon as I walked into the meet and greet on Wednesday evening. I was greeted by Tim himself and quickly fell into conversation with several other friendly writers.

Over the next two days, we learned from Tim and four other masters in the world of writing, marketing, and business. Here are my top takeaways from each of them:

1. Tim Grahl: Marketing Your Book is Your Moral Obligation

Your book will change lives, just as other people's books have changed yours. It's your moral obligation to get your book to as many people as possible. If you don't believe your book is worth reading, you will undercut your success. Take marketing seriously.

Marketing means

1. The act of building long-lasting connections, and
2. Being relentlessly helpful. Add value and interest to the lives of your readers and to influencers who can reach them.

2. Bryan Harris: The Most Important Thing You Can Do is Build Your Email List

You don't have to be an expert or have lots of time or the perfect book idea. Create an audience and they will tell you what they want and like.

3. Jeff Goins: Publish One New Idea Every Week on Your Blog

Don't try to do all the things. There are 19 things people want you to do. The "one to rule them all" is to publish one new idea every week. Post an idea and get feedback. Put everything you need to promote the article inside the article itself. Add tweetables, share buttons, shareable images for pinterest and instagram, etc, all embedded in the article. See what resonates with people.

4. Pamela Slim: Find Your Community of Readers and Connect With Them

Ask yourself, "What am I willing to lay my life down for and say, 'not on my watch'?" This will be your connecting point with your readers. Even if you write fiction, think about your message. What is the deeper hunger of your reader? What journey do you want to take them on? Who are you connecting others to? What quest will you go on together?

Find your audience, your readers, and uncover all the places they hang out in person and online. Connect with them.

5. Joe Bunting: Most of Your Success Will Come From Your Network

Create the best work you can and show it off online, find people doing what you want to do and reach out to them, set up an in-person visit, be generous, lead something, invest in relationship, and be brave!

To see more detailed information from this conference, see my extensive notes (17 pages!) at <http://bit.ly/bestseller2016>. Also, Tim Grahl wrote a great recap post about the conference at <http://timgrahl.com/bestseller-summit-2016-a-recap>, which includes a link to pictures of the event (I appear in a handful of them). If you're interested in next year's conference, you can sign up for updates there.

I thoroughly enjoyed the presenters and my fellow writers at the first annual Bestseller Summit. It's happening again next year and I strongly encourage any author who wants to get their book out to the world to attend! You'll learn actionable strategies to help you market your book and you'll also meet some incredible fellow authors and make great friendships and connections. That's what I loved the most.

KUDOS

Reed Holwegner, under his pseudonym Reed Leon, received an honorable mention from the Kansas Authors Club for the short story *Nightshade*, which was entered in the "Imagine" category, the theme for the Authors' annual conference. *Nightshade* had been previously critiqued during a KWI meeting. Under the pseudonym Dan Axtell, an essay of Reed's entitled *Parking Lot* appears in the nonfiction book *Evidence of God*, published by local author and noted screenwriter Esther Luttrell.

Reaona Hemmingway received several awards and honorable mentions from Kansas Authors Club:

- H.M. *Midnight Call*—Category: Adult Author Writing for a Teen Audience
- H.M. *Fire Heart*—Category: First Chapter of a Novel
- 2nd Place *The Honeymoon*—Category: Humor
- 1st Place *Zeller's Second Chance*—Category: Short Story
- 2nd Place *Homeless*—Category: Short Story
- H.M. *Blind Date*—Category: Short Story
- H.M. *The Auction on Silverton Road*—Category: Short Story
- H.M. *Five Days*—Category: Short Story
- H.M. *Jana's Imagination*— Category: Theme Contest (Imagine)

Janet Stotts received Honorable Mention for her poem *Steven Deer* in the Category of Narrative Verse.

Congrats to all our members who received awards and recognition for their contribution to the writing community!

Further Reading

Amazon's New Review Rules: Should Authors Be Worried?

<http://annerallen.com/amazons-new-review-rules-should-authors-worry/>

How NOT to Sell Books: Top 10 Social Media Marketing No-Nos for Authors

<http://annerallen.com/how-not-to-sell-books-top-10-social/>

5 Things You Can Do to Bring Your Writing Ideas (and Career) to Life

<http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/5-things-can-bring-writing-ideas-career-life>

10 Things Every Writer Should Know About Amazon Publishing

<http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/10-things-every-writer-know-amazon-publishing>

KWI Blog

Are you interested in writing a blog for KWI? Contact Tish 'Bear' Glasson by e-mail: bearwmnkwi@gmail.com.

KWI Meetings

October Meeting:

Canceled at the library due to MARA meeting on the same day. Please let Shayne know if you plan to attend.

November 12th, 2016

November Meeting is the KWI Holiday Party. It will be at First Congregational Church (1701 SW Collins). Please RSVP. More details to follow.

December: No meeting. Enjoy the holidays with your family.

January 28th, 2017: Large Critique Meeting/Pot Luck. More info to come.

All meetings begin as follows:

Time: 9:30am –3:30pm

Writing/Critique/Tape

9:30am-10:00am/ 10:00am –11:30

Board meeting: 11:30am -12:00am

Member Meeting: 12:30pm -1:00pm

Program Topic: 1:00pm –2:30pm

Financials

Beginning Balance	\$3,315.93
Income	\$180.00
Expenses	\$496.40
Ending Balance	\$2,999.53

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www.kswriters.wordpress.com