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2019-2020

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KWI Blog

Interested in writing a blog for
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Kansas Writers, Inc.

February 2020 Newsletter



Ponderings and Smackerals – A Message from the President:

Raise your hand if your New Year's Resolution was to be a better, more consistent writer? Whether that meant developing (and sticking to) a writing schedule, coming to more meetings, sharing more of your work with family and friends to get more feedback...whatever. Keep your hands raised if you've already broken those resolutions.

I get it. Writing is hard and sometimes it can feel overwhelming. Just ask our esteemed President who so was desperate to get out of writing this month's message she developed kidney stones 😊. In all seriousness thought, writing is hard. It's like having homework every night from now until the end of time. At least it's more fun than algebra. Unless you like algebra, in which case, you're weird. But we love you anyway.

So, if you've already broken your writing resolutions, that's okay. You're free to make, break, and remake them as many times as you need. Our writing community is here to help and encourage you along the way. If you've managed to keep your resolutions, good for you! You're awesome sauce! Go forth and write my fellow bibliophiles and keep the rest of us updated on your progress and if/when you need a little extra encouragement (or a giant kick in the pants, whatever works for you).

Brittany
Newsletter

KWI Meetings

Next Meeting

When: March 28, 2020

Where: TSCPL, Anton Room

Topic: Dialogue

Future Meeting

When: April 24-26, 2020

Where: Lake Wabaunsee

Topic: Annual Writing Retreat

Meeting Format

Open Writing: 9:30am - 10:00am

Critiquing: 10:00am - 11:30am

Board Meeting: 11:30am - 12:00pm

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

Program: 1:00 pm - 2:30pm



The Peanut Gallery: Shayne Huxtable

Can you hear the people sing, singing the songs of angry men? And by that I do not mean pasty French rebels. I mean the blood and sweat covered rippled muscles of warrior's looking to do a little pillaging? That might be because this month's addition to the Peanut Gallery is the queen of steamy historical romance, Shayne Huxtable.

Q. What is the best writing advice you've even received?

Study the craft. Learn the craft. Internalize the craft. Practice the craft.

Know it inside and out – then break the rules. Write sparse.

The first draft is me telling myself the story. It's during revisions that the plot and characters are fleshed out, and the threads are woven through for greater impact.

Revisions are how we build layers into the story and create three-dimensional characters.

Q. What is your favorite line that you have written?

I have a lot of favorite lines. This is one of the least offensive.

"Has history not taught you boy – treaties are worth less than shit clinging to a shoot." (said by a Welshman)

Q. What do you do when you get stuck?

I know the story from start to finish. I know the plot and character arcs; the places characters visit and the purposes for being there. I know the secondary characters and the animals.

I don't plot scenes out on paper or computer. I'm a big daydreamer. I practice 'what if?' When I get stuck, I spend time sending characters down rabbit holes to places and situations I mostly don't intend to use in the story, but their actions, dialogue and thoughts are important and stimulating.

I also go back and look at what brought them to the place where I'm stuck. I continue writing (even when it's a load of shit) to see if what I'm facing is a scene transition.

Even after all these years, the characters still surprise me.

Q: What is the most difficult part of the writing process?

Honestly, getting up in the morning and not being distracted by all the crap I have to do in the house.

Q. Writer buddies C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien once went to a non-costume party dressed as polar bears. You're inspired to do the same. Who is your partner in crime/costume and what do the two of you dress as?

Hmmmm.

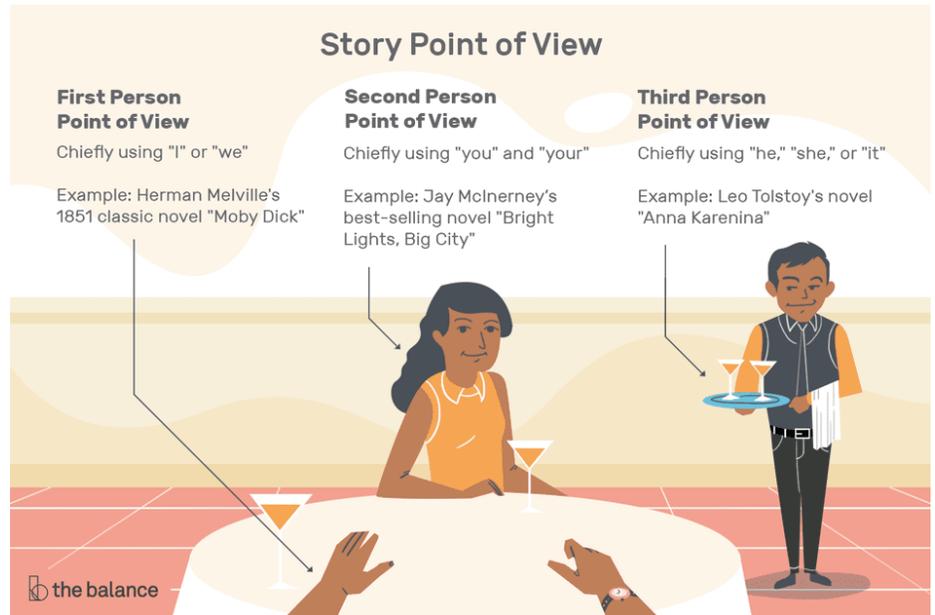
Okay. I'd go with Jean Claude Van Damme. He'll be wearing a flowing loin cloth and flexing his muscles... a lot. I'll be dressed as a squeeze box...

2017/11/21



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February Meeting: Point of View



Have you ever read a story and thought, "I wonder what this would look like from the X's point of view?"

What if, instead of seeing the magical wizarding world through Harry Potter's eyes we saw it through Lord Voldemort's? How would the story have changed then and how would we feel about some of the characters we've grown to love? Would we still see them in the same light?

Point of View is one of those things that seems simple on the surface, yet many writers struggle with when it comes to using effectively. Deciding which point of view to tell your story from can dramatically impact the story's effectiveness, theme, message, and a host of other details.

Our esteemed Treasurer, Shayne Huxtable, will cover point of view during the February meeting. If POV is something you struggle with – either maintaining a consistent POV or deciding which to use – come with questions and be prepared for a lively discussion.

Annual Writer's Retreat 2020:

KWI members,

Our retreat is creeping closer. We had a great experience last year at the Lake Wabaunsee house in Wabaunsee County, KS, so we've booked it again for this year.



The dates are Friday through Sunday, April 24th, 25th, and 26th.

Expect a fun weekend of eating, drinking, hot tubing, bbq-ing, and the all-important WRITING! (We can sneak some critiques in as well.)

KWI Treasurer, Shayne Huxtable, will happily take your \$50.00 non-refundable deposit either at our monthly meeting or via the mail. Her mailing address is: 2601 SW Western Ave, Topeka, KS. 66611
Make checks out to: KWI

Shayne Huxtable
Treasurer

Financials

January 2020

Beginning Cash Balance:
\$3,731.46

Income: \$60.00

Expenses: \$100.00

Ending Cash Balance: \$3,691.46

January Meeting Minutes: 1/25/2020

I. Called to order at 12:35 PM. by president

II. Members present: Connie Beckett, Romie Chavez, Alisha Davis, Richard Forque, Leslie Galbraith, Tish Glasson, Shayne Huxtable, Billie-Renee Knight, Julie Nischan, Cassie Nicholas, Brittany Willes

III. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this month.

IV. Financials for December 2019

Beginning balance: \$3712.38

Expenses: \$10.92

Income \$30.00

Ending balance: \$3731.46

V. Old Business

A. Group novel – Romie is currently working on his chapter. Cassie is up next.

B. By-Laws – All amendments passed except the amendment to the speaker's fees. Reed Holwegner is redrafting this one and will forward it to Romie Chavez, the chairman of the By-laws committee when it is ready.

C. Programs – Next program on writing craft – POV by Shayne. March program will be on dialogue with Romie. April is the annual retreat.

D. Logo – this topic has been added to new business as part of the re-branding effort. See below.

VI. New Business

A. Annual retreat coming up in April (24-26) in Waubaunsee. \$50 down payment due by February to Shayne. Can stay over or come out for the day. More information appears in the newsletter.

B. Logo & Branding – We need to work on this. We need to have a single image that brands us: business cards, rack cards, website, FB pages, banners. Brittany will check with a contact on the logo. Morgan will check with a contact about the entire branding process. Shayne will chair the new committee formed to handle this effort. Brittany, Leslie, & Billie-Renee volunteered to serve on the branding committee. Richard, Connie & Romie will serve on the committee as non-board members. We will also look into getting a generic email for our website, so officers' personal emails do not have to be used for KWI business.

C. A memorial will be sent to the American Cancer Society in the name of Georgia Varney, Leslie Galbraith's mother and Billie-Renee's stepmother who passed away at the end of December.

D. Shayne will be the next member spotlight for the newsletter.

VII. Kudos – Cassie Nicholas self-published on Amazon Kindle. The title is *Need of You*. The Chiefs are going to the Superbowl!

VIII. Door prize winner – Cassie Nicholas

IX. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by the president.



February Online Workshops

Motivate Your Character to Create the Plot

Date: February 1–14, 2020

Presenter: Alicia Rasley

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

When Two Authors Are Better Than One, a Co-writing Class

Date: February 1–29, 2020

Presenters: Ivy Quinn and Midnight Voss.

FMI, <https://marylandromancewriters.com/event/when-two-authors-are-better-than-one-a-co-writing-class/>

Advanced Tarot for Writers

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Elizabeth Delisi.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

All About Character

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Carol A. Henry.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

The Art of Writing Novellas Quickly

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Margaret Bates.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB5>

Austen to Aliens: Creating the Classic Tough Chick

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Jacqui Jacoby.

FMI, <https://rwaonlinechapter.org/>

Demystifying Police Work: Understanding Police Roles in Fiction

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Wesley Harris.

FMI, <https://www.rwakissofdeath.org/coffin>

Finding Your Writing Muse

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Joy Held.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

How to Disappear

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Frank M. Ahearn.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB4>

Make Descriptions Earn Their Keep

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Mary Marvella.

FMI, <http://www.neorwa.com/online-workshops/upcoming-meetings/>

Scrivener Scene by Scene

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Ines Johnson.

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

The Word-loss Diet—Professional Editing Techniques for Fiction Writers

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Rayne Hall.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB3>

Writing Conflict Hurts

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Melinda Curtis.

FMI, <https://www.rwakisofdeath.org/coffin>

Writing Diversity in Genre Fiction

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Eliana West.

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

Writing Erotic Romance and Erotica

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Susan Palmquist.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB2>

Writing a Series or Trilogy BootCamp

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Susan Palmquist.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB1>

Creating Unforgettable Worlds: World-Building in Speculative Fiction

Date: February 3–29, 2020

Presenter: Midnight Voss.

FMI, <https://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com/workshops>
