

KWI: KANSAS WRITER'S INK

Newsletter Vol. 15. No. 13

February 2014

Kansas Writers, Inc.

February 22, 2014 Meeting

Regular Meeting:

Present: Romie, Chavez, Leslie Galbraith, Deirdre Gordon-Hazim, Amy Gross, Reaona Hemmingway, Angela Johnson, Carey Kennedy, Billie-Renee Knight, Eleanor Liu, Janet Stotts, Kevin Wilson, Reed

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Submitted for publication in February newsletter

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Treasurer, Carey Kennedy

Correspondence: None submitted.

Unfinished Business:

Last line contest and Bloody Gavel collection:

- Edits to be submitted at next meeting.

Publicity Committee and 785 Magazine:

Carey Kennedy and Janet Stotts have met and created a plan to approach the 785 Magazine.

By-laws: Will discuss at board meeting next month.

New Business:

Critique format: Feedback was positive on the format.

March meeting: Will be held in the Marvin Auditorium. Laura Moriarity will speak. Members are asked to invite guests.

Writing Retreat: Retreat at the Elms in Excelsior Springs, MO - \$117 - \$129 4th weekend in April weekend of the 26th – switched from March due to weather concerns. RSVP with Morgan by the end of February.

Committee Reports: None submitted.

Kudos: None submitted.

2014 KWI Board Members

President: Tish Glasson

Vice President: Morgan Rothenberger

Secretary: Billie-Renee Knight

Treasurer: Carey Kennedy

Membership: Shayne Sawyer

Newsletter: Romie Chavez

Advisor to the President: Mark Bouton

Past President: Morgan Rothenberger



2014: The Year of the Writer

In This Issue

- February 2014 Minutes
- Online Workshops
- Ian Hall's Writing Process
- Kudos
- Events & Writing Opportunities
- Next Meeting
- Financials

April Online Workshops

By Angela Johnson

Sex & Sensuality

Date: April 1–14, 2014

Presenter: Marcia King-Gamble. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>.

Get Your Fetish On

Date: April 1–25, 2014

Presenter: Cynthia Richards. FMI, <http://www.passionateink.org/workshops/>.

No Backstory for 40 Pages

Date: April 1–25, 2014

Presenter: Beth Henderson. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Writer's Block

Date: April 1–25, 2014

Presenter: Hillary Hutchinson. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Editing: Stealing the Vicar's Tea

Date: April 1–30, 2013

Presenter: Robin Weaver. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.php>.

What Do You Do When a Horse Shows Up?

Date: April 1–30, 2013

Presenter: Kathy Bremner. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.php>.

Deep Story Techniques II

Dates: April 4–30, 2014

Presenter: Carol Hughes. FMI, <http://www.starrwa.org> / carolhenry@frontiernet.net.

Worldbuilding

Date: April 7–14, 2014

Presenter: Monette Michaels. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/worldbuilding/>.

Getting More Emotional Connection via Deep POV

Date: April 7–20, 2014.

Presenter: Robin Weaver. FMI, <http://www.carolinaromancewriters.com/online-workshop-schedule.html>.

Virtual Book Tours

Date: April 7–20, 2014

Presenter: Karina Fabian. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/virtual-book-tours/>.

Avoid the Rough: Turning Your Story Idea into a Workable Plot with a Broad Strokes Outline

Date: April 7–25, 2014

Presenter: Cathy Chant. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Candid Confessions of a Newbie Author

Date: April 7-May 2, 2014

Presenter: Alexa Bourne. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Wardrobes, Weapons, Warbling & Words: Shopping, Entertainment, and Slang for Your Historical Characters

Date: April 7-May 2, 2014

Presenter: Beth Daniels. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Social Media for the Confused and Terrified

Date: April 14–May 11, 2014

Presenter: Elena Dillon. FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Beginning Scrivener

Date: April 7-May 16, 2014

Presenter: Rebeca Schiller. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Breathing Life Into Your Scene

Date: April 28-May 23, 2014

Presenter: Beth Corneilson. FMI, <http://www.rwaonlinechapter.org/campus.htm>

Pacing Your Novel

Date: April 1 – 28, 2014

Instructor: Becky Martinez, award-winning former broadcast journalist and published author. FMI, <http://www.marylandromancewriters.com/pacing-your-novel/>.

My Writing Process

By Ian Hall

It usually starts with some form of inspiration. Inspiration. A simple word we've all heard and used before. But what does it actually mean to you? To me? The writer? The flash of light that ignites an idea in your head, and begins to make single thought into a phrase. Inspiration is the spur that takes a phrase, a title, an image in your head and turns it into more than just an idea. To some it's a physical jolt. It's sometimes a light bulb suddenly appearing above your head. It's a friendly kick in the seat of your pants. It's the spark to get your writing from your head down onto paper.

A line, a chapter, a book. Inspiration comes from many directions, and in many forms. But when it takes hold, it's a raging bull that takes off in a myriad of directions. So, as writers, we must recognize it for what it is, grab it by the horns, and channel the direction and energy. That's what we do. It's what I do.

But unfortunately, writing takes more than inspiration. If it didn't we'd all have a thousand novels for sale. Inspiration is good for a beginning. It might drive the first few chapters. And it does provide us with a new state of being; some never get this far.

Momentum. It's not really an 'emotional' word, and yet after the inspiration fades away, I'm left with this 'thing' hanging in the air. I've had the inspirational kick, and I haven't stopped moving yet, but there's more to it. The idea of momentum almost has a physical weight to it; a mass. I've written a few chapters, and I'm happy. I'm 'up' to the challenge, and I coast along not driven, but not driving either, and that's fine... for a while. Unfortunately 'momentum' has a negative property; if it's not on a downward slope, then friction affects it from the outside, and momentum ultimately slows down. And to keep our project moving, we have to defeat this deceleration, this slowing down, this stopping; we need to dig into our psyches and drag out another word.

Perseverance. Again, it may sound simple, but unlike 'inspiration', perseverance comes from within us, not from an external source. And it involves effort from us, something which 'inspiration' does not. And let's face it, none of us like effort from our own part. Perseverance is a dogged, head down, plowing through the snowstorm of life, and when times get tough, still keeping going. Perseverance involves a stubborn streak, which, as writers, we have to throw manure on and grow into huge trees. Our resolve to finish an article, play, novel, story is battered from the outside world, telling us to quit, providing distractions and deflections which are designed to throw us off track. But our perseverance is also attacked from within; our own low esteem drags at every word, snakes inside our 'perseverance' like subtle strains of color through marble. It makes us give undue consideration to our 'unworthiness', and makes those external distractions so inviting. So comforting. Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and so many more... just a click away as we write; how do we ever get a page written? Perseverance will drag our weary hands to the keyboard, minimize the Facebook page, and let us concentrate on our work at hand. I actually think perseverance alone could get me through half of a project. But it is a kind-of neutral word. And in writing, we don't need the word neutral. When perseverance begins to fail, I give myself a shake, but it's not enough. I have to dig deeper within myself, and drag out another old friend.

Continued on page 4

Pass the Baton

By: Ian Hall

Determination. Show me a world champion in anything, and they'll mention 'determination' in their skill-set. If 'perseverance' is a stubborn streak, then 'determination' is a teeth-gritted, grunting progress of the "I'll do this if it kills me" magnitude. It's an emotion that throws friends and family to the side as we drag our project near a conclusion. Unless we're super-heroes, only determination will get us close to the end. Nearly there; but we need something else to drag our weary bones to the end. To the last sentence. To the last chapter.

To illustrate, I have to use an analogy... "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Olympic Championship Final; One Hundred Meters Re-lay. Yes, RE-LAY! Participants in lane one; Inspiration, Momentum, Perseverance, Determination, and another, I can't see his name... hmm." I prepare my stance, grip my shining aluminum re-lay baton, nothing in my head, and wait.

BANG! Inspiration! As I run the hundred meter 'dash', 'inspiration' taking me through the acceleration of the first twenty meters. The heady high of initial excitement grabs my feet and propels me along the track at break-neck speed. Then as inspiration begins to leave; I don't flounder, I can't, I'm running too fast for that.

I pass the baton.

My speed assured, momentum alone is enough to carry me through the next twenty meters, my feet move of their own accord, in fact at first, it might even be harder to stop than to keep going. But as this twenty-meter segment drags on, my body wants to slow down; this is getting too much like hard work.

Pass the baton.

It's at this stage that perseverance takes over, telling me, you've got this far, you can do another twenty no problem. It's a sensible looking-back, and keeping going, despite the distractions. Okay, so what if you're a little winded, you can get through this. But towards the end of 'perseverance's twenty meter segment, you're starting to doubt yourself.

The baton.

But you bite the bullet, determination taking over you grit your teeth, knowing there's another twenty meters in your body if it kills you. Whatever euphemism you use, and there's plenty, you stubbornly refuse to give in, and somehow you find the energy to drag your body along that track. But when determination fails, there's only one emotion left.

Baton.

But actually it's not an emotion; more the promise of one. It's an out-of-body experience that brings euphoria into your veins like the purest adrenaline. Suddenly you're on the finishing line, standing beyond the finishing tape, looking back along the track at your flailing arms. You picture your jubilation as you cross the winning line. You see your medal being pinned to your heaving chest. And euphoria drags you to finish the race when all other feelings have evaporated. Euphoria, or the knowledge that you'll soon have that feeling, is enough for me to finish the work. Getting it finished. Getting it on bookshelves. Getting it read by strangers in strange lands. Finding reviews that praise you 'til you're red with embarrassment. And pride. That's what makes me finish and cross the line... This is how I write. Part inspiration and euphoria, part head down dogged hard work, part momentum. Some parts are surprisingly easy. Some can wear you down like the worst flesh-eating disease. I just love being a writer. But don't call me soft.

Ian Hall

KUDOS

Mark Bouton is featured in an interview in the Senior Monthly magazine for March, 2014. It's available free at newsstands in and around Lawrence and Topeka. He discusses his experiences in the FBI and with writing novels and non-fiction. His latest book is *The ET Murders*, in which grisly murders can only be solved by investigating the possible reality of UFOs and aliens. That book and others are available at <http://www.amazon.com/Mark-Bouton/e/B001JP4A3S>.

Stacy Thowe's short story "The Gift" has been published this month in the online literary magazine, *The Greensilk Journal*. The Journal can be found at the web address <http://www.thegsj.com/home2.html>. Stacy's other short story "Albert's Great Adventure" will be coming out in the April issue of *Beyond Imagination Magazine*, which is available through Amazon.com. It also comes in a Kindle for all you tech-savvy writers.

Events and Writing Opportunities

Submitted by Reaona Hemmingway

WriterAdvice seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction running 750 words or less. Enlighten, dazzle, and delight us. Finalists receive responses from all judges. First prize is \$200. Submit to the 9th *WriterAdvice Flash Prose Contest* by April 18, 2014. Complete details at www.writeradvice.com.

Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Events

African-American Writers Book Discussion

Discussion Join this multicultural opportunity to discuss books written by African American writers. On February 20 discuss *Mayday over Wichita* by local author and historian D. W. Carter. On March 20 discuss *Act of Grace* by Karen Simpson. Anton room 202 Join this multicultural opportunity to discuss books written by African American writers. On March 20 discuss *Act of Grace* by Karen Simpson.

Community Novel 2014

Local authors interested in participating in the 3rd Annual Community Novel Project, there is still time to participate. Contact Lissa Staley at estaley@tsopl.org. This is a great opportunity to get your name out there and show off your talent. Kudos to the KWI members who are currently enrolled in it again this year.

KWI Next Meeting:

April Retreat

Where:

The Elms in Excelsior Springs, MO

When:

April 25th-27th

May Retreat

Where:

Topeka Shawnee County Public Library

When:

May 24th, 2014

Topic: TBA

Message from Theresa:

If anyone is interested in donating their book to a "Little Free Library" at my work, please bring them to the next KWI meeting and I will collect them. Thanks!

Financials

None Submitted

Visit us online at:

www.kansaswritersinc.com

www.kswriters.wordpress.com