

# KWI: Kansas Writers Ink

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November 2013

KWI'S 2013

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*Inside this issue:*

KWI Holiday Party	1
Lessons Learned	1
Online Workshops	2
Minutes	3
Kudos	4
Hollywood Advice	4

## KWI Holiday Party sure to be a Success!

By Morgan Rothenberger

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

November is our holiday meeting -- a way to wrap up the year, launch the holiday season and spend some time getting to know each other. We meet at First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave., at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 23. Please bring a food dish and, if you'd like, an unwrapped gift to be included in the raffle. Gifts can range from writing oriented things to holiday decorations to food.

We'll eat first and then move on to the raffle, which is a fund-raiser for our group. You can buy \$1 tickets to put in the raffle for each donated item.

We do not have a December meeting, but that just gives you some extra time to prepare for our January critique meeting. We're going to try something different this year for the meeting. Please bring 5 to 10 pages with you, and we'll read them out loud for critique. Shayne has been attending a Kansas City Romance Writers group and they do this. She said it's immensely valuable to hear your work read out loud.

If that scares you to death (and it does me a little), just attend to take part in the helpful critique. We will have a longer meeting to accommodate everybody, so we'll begin about 11 a.m., break for lunch about noon



KWI Holiday Party Rocks!!!

or 12:30 and then come back in for the afternoon. Please let me know if you're going to participate because if a lot of people do, we'll back that up to 10 a.m.

Thank you!  
Morgan

## Lessons Learned in Nanowrimo

By: Billie-Renee Knight

There are many lessons to be learned during November, National Novel Writing Month. The challenge seems a bit intimidating on the surface -- write a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. When I mention it to friends they tend to get wide-eyed and

nervous. This is usually followed with the question, "Are you insane?" Perhaps those of us who participate in Nanowrimo are a bit insane, but what writer isn't? Many of the things I've learned about writing from Nanowrimo were summed

up nicely in the October 26 online edition of Writer's Digest article Five Things to Stop Doing (If You Really Want to Finish Writing Your Novel) by Kevin Kaiser.

*Continued on page 2*

His five things to stop doing were:

- Nix the excuses.
- Stop *trying*.
- Stop the Inner Critic's crazy rants.
- Don't overdose on caffeine.
- Stop thinking it should be easier.

His first point is classic. Every writer I've ever met has a few favorite excuses to not write. Some cite their jobs, lack of time, children, and pets to name a few. Excuses are a novel killer and they have to go. I find myself coming up with reasons why I can't write on any given day, but I have resolved to follow Kaiser's recommendation and just kick them to the curb.

His second point is also a great one. Don't say you're trying to write a novel. Do it. Period and end of story.

Any writer who claims they haven't got an inner critic whispering negative things in his ear is lying. We all have that tiny voice crawling

around inside our heads spreading doom and gloom. I call mine George. One of the greatest techniques for dealing with George I learned at the Nanowrimo Kickoff Party. We were asked to put our inner critic in an envelope and seal it up for the month so it wouldn't bother us. I figure George has come to enjoy his month off every November. He doesn't fight so much going in the envelope as he used to do.

Point number four is where I have a problem. First off, is it even possible to overdose on caffeine? I'm not sure I've ever reached that point and I cannot imagine it ever happening, but Kaiser cautions that it has happened to some writer somewhere. As far as I'm concerned the more caffeine the better. With enough caffeine on board none of the other bad habits have much effect. However, I suppose if you are susceptible to this issue, you might want to scale the caffeine consumption back a bit.

The last point is also important to remember. Writing is hard. Writing

is work. It's not going to get easier, no matter how much of it you do. Many people have this vision about writing being easy. Obviously they've never done much of it or consistently. The only thing that gets easier over time is carving out the daily time to write. Once in the habit, it becomes second nature. The writing itself is still going to be difficult.

I'm off to put these five suggestions to work as I labor on my 50,000 words in 30 days. November is one of the best and worst months of the year, but on December 1 I wake with the determination to keep up the same crazy, fast writing schedule. That determination may carry me through the Christmas break at least.



Article gives sound advice to writers on how to finish your novel.

Article by Billie-Renee Knight

## December Online Workshops

By: Angela Johnson

### Celtic Mythology

Dates: December 1–30, 2013  
Presenter: Kate Wood. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops>.

### World Building

Dates: December 2–6, 2013  
Presenter: Monette Michaels. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

### Become a Better Editor

Dates: December 2–13, 2013  
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

### The Ins & Outs of Writing Category

Date: December 2–13, 2013  
Presenter: Tawny Weber. FMI, [www.bdrwa.org](http://www.bdrwa.org).

### Self-Publishing 101—The ABCs of Being an Indie Author

Dates: December 2–13, 2013  
Presenters: Ann Charles & Amber Scott. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

### Finished That Manuscript, Now What?

Dates: December 2–20, 2013  
Presenter: Alexa Bourne. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

### The Writer's Primer of Common Errors: Robbing Verbs of Their Energy

Date: December 4–17, 2013  
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>.

### Submitting: How to Use the Rule of 10 to Maximize Your Chance of Getting to YES!

Dates: December 9–20, 2013  
Presenter: Tina Gerow. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

### More Online Workshops Here

Dates: November & December  
Sponsor: Savvy Authors  
FMI, <http://ce.savvyauthors.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&monthrequest=12&yearrequest=2013&pageId=488&parentPageId=487>

“A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.”

— [Thomas Mann](#),

[Essays of Three](#)

[Decades](#)

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**Kansas Writers, Inc**  
**October 26th, 2013 meeting**

**Regular Meeting:**

*Present:* Romie Chavez, Morgan Chilson, Leslie Galbraith, Jason Glasson, Tish Glasson, Reona Hemmingway, Billie-Renee Knight, Eleanor Liu, Janet Stotts

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

None submitted.

**Treasurer's Report For September 2013**

None submitted.

**Correspondence:**

None presented.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Last Line Contest:*

Tish will forward any entries she has to Morgan.

*785 Magazine:*

Morgan will serve on a committee to work on publicity in general. Have not heard back from Carey on specific information regarding 785 Magazine. Janet volunteered to serve on a publicity committee.

*Authors' Fair:*

Sunday, December 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. KWI will have a table and will need members to man it. Morgan will order business cards and has created brochures to be handed out at the fair.

*Website:*

Is updated to reflect members as of the new year. Members wishing to include their biography, photo and a web link to their

blog or personal website should forward that information to Billie-Renee at [knightdrk2@yahoo.com](mailto:knightdrk2@yahoo.com) for inclusion.

**New Business:**

*November meeting:*

Annual Christmas party, which will be held at First Congregational Church at 1701 SW Collins beginning at 11:30 a.m. Attendees should bring a covered dish or dessert and a gift for the gift exchange.

*By-laws:*

The question was put forth as to whether the by-laws should be available on the webpage. Discussion turned to how up-to-date the by-laws were and where the most recent copy might be found. Tish will locate the by-laws and email them to all members for suggestions on revisions.

*Minutes:*

Minutes will now be included in the newsletter each month, so will automatically be included on the website via the newsletter link.

*December:*

No scheduled meeting

*January:*

Critique meeting – 10 pages submitted and random groups will be assigned for peer review.

*March:*

Laura Moriarity will speak and Morgan will arrange for a larger venue to accommodate addi-

tional attendees. Members are asked to invite guests.

**Committee Reports:**

None submitted

**Kudos:**

Mark Bouton's new novel, *The ET Murders*, is garnering some attention in the news. The book was noticed by Omni Mystery News. See <http://www.tinyurl.com/q6u8lzb>. And several newspapers have had articles, including the Topeka Capital-Journal news-paper in its Sunday Arts section. See <http://cjonline.com/life/connected/2013-10-5/ex-fbi-agents-new-thriller-involves-ufos-aliens>.

Reona Hemmingway received awards for four out of six entries in the 2013 Kansas Author's Club Literary Contest. In the category First Five Pages of a Novel, Reona received First place for *Toni's Inheritance* and First Honorable Mention for *Tiana*. In the category Short Fiction, Reona received Second Honorable Mention for *Guns in the Cathedral*. And in the category Story for Children, Reona received Second Honorable Mention for *Sandy and the Amazing Bed Sleigh*. The awards ceremony was held October 6 at the 2013 Kansas Author's Club Convention in Wichita, Kansas.

www.kansaswritersinc.com  
www.kswriters.wordpress.com

KWI members,

The KWI website is a work is still a work in progress. I try to update everything at least weekly. Our members page is coming along, but I do not have bios and/or photos for many of our members. I would also like to provide links to your author webpages if you have one as a way of promoting your work. I've been studying other writing groups' pages and many provide links to author pages and blogs. I think this is something we could be doing as well. If you would like me to add this information to our members' page, please send me an email at [knightrk2@yahoo.com](mailto:knightrk2@yahoo.com) with the information and I will get it set up as soon as possible.

Thank you to those of you who have already provided me with information, bios, photos, and links. Look for those soon!

Billie-Renee Knight, secretary  
[knightrk2@yahoo.com](mailto:knightrk2@yahoo.com)

## Kudos

Kudos goes out to Linda Madl for her e-publication of her novel. Here is what Linda had to say about her latest venture:

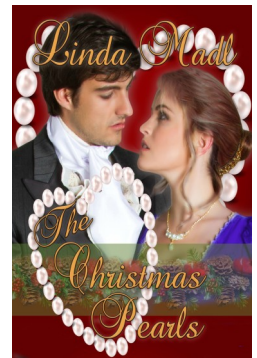
"I'd like to announce the e-publication of a re-release for Christmas:

The Christmas Pearls, the author's cut, is available from Amazon Kindle.

A historical romance novella about a dashing privateer who decides to marry for love and status, but finds himself trying to please two women instead of one. Which sister will win his heart and the right to the gift of The Christmas Pearls?"

See a detailed description at [http://www.amazon.com/Christmas-Pearls-Linda-Madl-ebook/dp/B00GDGD2VY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1383925897&sr=1-1&keywords=the+christmas+pearls](http://www.amazon.com/Christmas-Pearls-Linda-Madl-ebook/dp/B00GDGD2VY/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1383925897&sr=1-1&keywords=the+christmas+pearls)

Learn more about the writing of "The Christmas Pearls" on my CoffeeShop-Writers blog



Linda Madl releases author's cut of Christmas novel.

## Writing Advice from Hollywood

By Romie Chavez

Every author has their own process when it comes to writing. I've seen many articles where writers give tips on how to complete those pesky novel projects, which nip away at the back of our minds, hoping that we will release it through our finger tips and onto paper. Eventually, we begin to see a pattern and soon tips began to overlap. Of course, there is no right or wrong way to write your novel—just as long as you finish it.

A couple of months ago, I came across an article published by film critic, Catherine Bray, entitled *Joss Whedon's Top 10 Writing Tips*. Screenwriting is not something I've dabbled in often, but after I read the article, I found Joss's tips quite helpful. For those of you that don't know who Joss Whedon is, he created the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, its spin-off *Angel*, the cult favorite *Firefly* series, and most recently directed Marvel's *The Avengers*. While not all of his advice pertained to novel writing, he managed to make some good points that connect both worlds. Here is a summary of the tips that I thought were worth pondering over:

Rule #1: Finish it. Don't write two-thirds of a screenplay, and then re-write it over and over.

Finishing a screenplay is difficult, but it's also liberating when completed. Even if it's not perfect—type to the end. Closure is important.

Rule#2: Structure. Know where you're going! Charts, graphs, colored pens, anything that means you don't go into a story blind is great.

Rule#3: Have something to say. Even if you're writing a Die Hard rip-off, have something to say about Die Hard rip-offs. The number of movies that are not about what they purport to be about is staggering.

Rule#4: Everybody has a reason to live. Every one of our characters has a perspective. Everybody in your scene, including the thug flanking your bad guy, has a reason. They have their own voice, their own identity, their own history. Not everyone has to be funny; not everyone has to be cute; not everyone has to be delightful, and not everyone has to speak, but if you don't know who everybody is and why they're there, why they're feeling what they're feeling and why they're doing what they're doing, then you're in trouble.

Rule #5: Cut what you love. If something isn't working, if you have a story that you've built and

it's blocked and you can't figure it out, take out your favorite scene, or your very best idea or set-piece, and cut it. It's brutal, but sometimes inevitable.

I find it interesting the similarities in thought processes between screenwriting and novel writing. Although they are both different beasts, you can see where they overlap. I give screenwriters props for all the things they have to go through to produce a movie script. Hopefully you'll find the information helpful. If not, that's ok. In the end it comes down to what works for you, the author. Make your own rules. The important thing is that you finish what you start. To quote my favorite (and only) nanowrimo shirt "The world needs your novel."

If you would like to read more about what Joss had to say, check out the link: <http://aerogrammestudio.com/2013/03/13/joss-whedons-top-10-writing-tips/>