



WITH PEN IN HAND

A PUBLICATION OF NETWO - NORTHEAST TEXAS WRITERS' ORGANIZATION

Next NETWO Meeting is
Thursday, Jan. 12th at 6:00
pm at Applebees's in Mt.
Pleasant

January 2012
Editor: Gay Ingram
gaymingram@gmail.com

January Writing Seminar!

The seminar will be led by N.T.C.C. Adjunct Professor,
prize-winning, nationally published poet and journalist,
(and NETWO president) Skip Hughes.

Attend BOTH sessions:

Saturday, January 14th at 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and
Saturday, January 21st at 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
At the Pizza Inn, north of Pittsburg on U.S. Highway 271.

Space is limited!

Register early by e-mail or phone to Skip
<diffdrumr@gmail.com>, (903-572-2793).

For early-registration tuition rate,

when registration is confirmed,
send check or M.O. by snail-mail to
2700 East U.S. Highway 67
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

Tuition

Early Registration: both sessions \$35; one session \$20.
“At the door” (space available): both sessions \$50; one session \$35.
Students (w/ I.D.) free with paying teacher.

NETWO November 2011 Monthly Meeting

Nine members of the Northeast Texas Writers Organization and three guests met October 13, 2011 at AppleBees in Mount Pleasant, Texas at 6:00. Guests Catherine Roberts, Emory and Dianna Craig were introduced. The minutes of the last meeting were included in the December newsletter. There was not treasurer's report.

Old and New Business:

- Remember that our website still needs someone to assist Jim Callan as webmaster of our website.
- Patti Ball reported on plans for next year's conference to be held at the Convention Center in Mt. Pleasant. A block of hotel rooms have been reserved for speakers and attendees. Rate for hotel accommodations is \$72 per night with breakfast included. Up to four people can share a room. Our caterer has been booked - they will serve Friday evening, lunch and dinner on Saturday. However, RSVP for Saturday's lunch is required at registration.
Early-bird registration will be \$65.00 for NETWO members and \$85 for non-members. Later registration will be \$70 for NETWO members and \$90 for non-members. There was lengthy discussion about offering a discount for those members of other writing groups who register together. More discussion needed.
- After discussion on whether to offer rental space outside the meeting room for vendors who might be interested, a motion was made by Gay Ingram and seconded by Lonnie Koontz to do so. Pattie will contact vendors and the chamber to make that availability known.
- It was noted that the manned book table will be for speakers' books only. Any members wishing to sell their books at the conference will have individual tables they man themselves.
- Vice President Karen Watts announced Jeannie Pamplin has begun meeting with wanna-be writers. Six to twelve people have been attending her writing classes.
- Pattie Ball mentioned a successful booksigning at Let's Eat in Tyler last month. She also donated copies of her book to be included in military Care packages.
- Bill Carl mentioned good success selling books when he spoke to the Kiwanis Club.

Business meeting adjourned.

Readers for the evening included:

Dianne Hunters Craig read from a novel-in-progress, **Rain Dance**; Bill Carl shared a memoir entitled **Waiting For Christmas In The House That Made Me Me**; and Galand Nuchols read a humorous account of her baking adventures entitled **Hobbies**.

Meeting was adjourned. Submitted by Gay Ingram



AVON IMPULSE

<http://www.avonromance.com/impulse/>

Avon Impulse will publish e-book first editions from new and established writers. Titles will also be available in print through on-demand publishing. Authors receive no advance, and 25 percent royalties on the first 10,000 copies sold, after which royalties rise to 50 percent. Titles will be available in all e-formats and from all e-book retailers. Editors are open to all sub-genres of romance, including contemporary, historical, suspense, time travel, westerns, steam-punk, paranormal and more. Unagented authors are welcome to submit through the form on the website.



BITS & PIECES

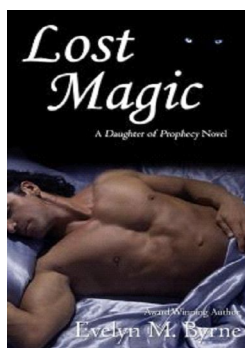
NETWO CONFERENCE UPDATE

Weronika Janxzuik, literary agent with Lynn Franklin Associates, represents a wide range of fiction and non-fiction for YA and adults alike. She is especially looking for crime fiction, fantasy/sci-fi, horror, women's fiction and romance. She will accept up to fifteen samples of ten pages for individual meetings.

from Pattie Bell, 2012 Conference Chair



Latest publication, **Lost Magic**, by Evelyn M. Byrne is now available.



Richard Hollingsworth recently had two short stories, **Belly Up To The Bar, Boys** and **A Matter Of The Bladder**, included in Texas Tidbits, an anthology produced by Texas Writers Network..

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MAKING AN AUDIO BOOK?

There is a way to make an audio book of your writing. Chuck Richardson Audio of Texarkana will produce your audio book. He is a thoroughly experienced audio technologist and has successfully produced prize-winning audio books.

I just completed making an audio book of my first novel **UNTIL TOMORROW** and have received my first three sets of disks in a beautifully done folder format.

Chuck is an audio production teacher on-line at Texarkana College/ He works anywhere you want to record your book.

You can reach Chuck at 903-293-6035. His rates are very reasonable and he is very flexible in his scheduling.

Submitted by William Carl

MARKETS

THERE IS HOPE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST

<http://www.heartofgodpublishing.com/writingcontest.html>

There is Hope Magazine is a new biannual magazine premiering in June, 2012. This magazine will feature articles of how everyday people are overcoming obstacles and achieving personal victories in their lives. The content of the magazine will be derived directly from submitted entries in the There is Hope Magazine Writing Contest. The contest is open to all authors of any age who are residents/citizens of the United States. Children under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian's signature. All entries must be NON-FICTION and include 2 references of people, different from the author, who can verify the truth of the story. All entries must be written in English.

Stories - Entries should be between 200 and 750 words.

Poems - Entries should be between 1 and 5 stanzas

Jokes/Humor - Less than 50 words Deadline March 1, 2012.

A minimum of 25 authors will be awarded and published in the There is Hope magazine. The author of the cover story will receive \$500, a photo shoot and 5 free copies of the magazine.

All other awarded authors will receive \$100 and 1 free copy of the magazine.



LITERARY TRAVELER

http://www.literarytraveler.com/contact/writers_guidelines.aspx

Which writers and artists inspire you? Have you taken a journey or pilgrimage that was inspired by a work of literature? Literary Traveler focuses on literary artists but we welcome articles about composers, painters, poets, songwriters, and storytellers. Show us what you are made of and what you are passionate about. What excites you and would excite our readers? The articles we publish highlight the beauty and struggle of people who create, and the places that nurture them. Articles are not necessarily limited to their writers' experiences; some may be informative of place and artist. 1,500 - 2,000 words in length. Accompany article with photos (sized small jpegs). Pays \$50 per article.



ALFRED HITCHCOCK MAGAZINE

<http://www.themysteryplace.com/ahmm/guidelines/>

We are interested in nearly every kind of mystery: stories of detection of the classic kind, police procedurals, private eye tales, suspense, courtroom dramas, stories of espionage, and so on. We ask only that the story be about a crime (or the threat or fear of one). We sometimes accept ghost stories or supernatural tales, but those also should involve a crime. Up to 12,000 words, but prefers shorter.

Fiction only. Payment is five to eight cents/word.



The First Line, P.O. Box 250382, Plano, TX 75025-0382. P(972)824-0646. Email: info-at-Thefirstline.com. Website: <http://www.thefirstline.com>.

Each issue contains short stories that stem from a common first line; Guidelines online at <http://www.thefirstline.com/submission.htm>.

See their guidelines for current needs. Pays \$20 per story plus one contributor's copy.

UNTIL TOMORROW THEN

By
Bryan Freeman

As I climbed the stone stairs to the music room I thought to my self, *it's been two years since I've been here, two years since the angels came for her. My God. Two years, it seems like yesterday.*

The sun was setting as I walked into the room. It will be pitch dark in a few minutes, so I lit the candle beneath her life size portrait. She was reclining on a lounge dressed in a pale blue gossamer gown with long flowing veils. Her dark shoulder length hair out lined her face and her dark blue eyes seem to follow you as you roamed around the circular room. There was that faint smile of hers that invited conversation about music. *Ah the great times we shared together*, I thought. I looked around the room memories came flowing back, then I saw the violin case on the credenza. Opening it up and looked in. It was still there, my violin. Ah the music it played, as I watched her dance to our music. I lit the four candles in the candelabrum and picked up the violin. I plucked the strings to see if it was still in tune and they were.

Playing a Brahms lullaby, the violin in hand, I drifted towards the French doors that lead out to the balcony that overlooked the river, two hundred feet below. The lullaby sounded sad as it drifted out over the landscape and down the mountain side.

Then I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. I turned, and there she was in that gossamer gown, the long veils floating behind her, a slight smile on her lips. She danced gracefully as she came towards me. Knowing what she liked, I switched from the lullaby to a gypsy tune that she always liked. Her smile broaden and danced to the tune. She twirled and bowed and leaped into the air, dancing on the balcony railing and drifting out over the cliff, making every move that she knew. Dance, gypsy, dance. She did so with wanton abandon. The music seem to hold her up as she dance in the air.

I stopped for a second to adjust the violin, and she fell fifty feet into the briar bushes below. As she struggled to get free she left bits and pieces of herself on the thorny bushes. I started the music once more and she floated back up to the balcony and continued to dance in the air, an arm length from the railing. There were pieces missing from her body and gown; it look slightly grotesque.

As the music came to an end, she drifted over the railing and curtsied to me. Then drifting passed , her lips brushed my cheek and a faint whisper . "Until tomorrow then."

"Until tomorrow then," I whispered back "And by the way, your ear is on upside down."

SO YOU WANT TO BE PUBLISHED?

(Taken with appreciation from the handout received from Lou Antonelli at October meeting)

Write the best book that you can. Learn your craft. Here are a few tricks.

1. Begin your novel with a hook sentence. I usually refrain from using a description of setting or the weather for my first paragraph. Why? 8 out of 10 books start this way and you want to be unique.
2. Refrain from any back story in your first chapter. Back story should be woven in slowly. Always begin the story where it begins, with action or a mystery, something that entices the reader to want more.
3. Show don't tell.
4. Use active and not passive writing.
5. Use all five senses to enrich your final draft.
6. Vary sentence structure.
7. Avoid word echo.
8. Well developed characters with both good and bad traits will be more intriguing.
9. Fun and natural dialogue that supports your characters' specific personalities.

Lucrative Niches in Children's Writing By Susan Sundwall

Rhymes

1. Cricket- Pays \$3 per line
2. Pockets- Pays \$25 and up
3. Shine Brightly- Pays \$5 - \$15
4. US Kids- Pays \$35
5. Now, if you do want to try the picture book scene, Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Ltd., a Canadian publisher, is currently seeking submissions. Find information on their website found here: <http://www.fitzhenry.ca/submissions.aspx>

Plays and Skits

1. Meriweather Publishing - Offers both royalty and non-royalty payment depending on type of submission
2. Plays Magazine- Rates vary with length of manuscript
3. Eldrige Plays- Pays 50% on royalties
4. Heuer Publishing- Pays royalties
5. Pioneer Drama- Offers contract

Science

1. National Geographic for Kids- Pays \$1 per word. Query Marc Lismi at mlismi@ngs.org
2. Odyssey- Pays \$0.20 - \$0.25 per printed word
3. Highlights - Pays \$150 and up.
4. Sylvan Dells- offers advance against royalties
5. Know- Pays \$0.50 per word Canadian

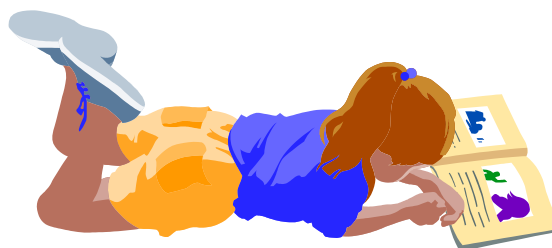
Short Stories

1. Kids A- Pays \$100 per story
2. Catholic Forester- Pays \$0.50 per word
3. Fun for Kids- Pays \$0.05 per word. Fun for

Kids has three magazines in at this one website.
4. Young Rider- Pays \$150 per story. Like animals? This magazine wants your short story about horses

5. Keys for Kids- Pays \$25 for accepted stories
Coloring and Activity Books / Articles

1. Warner Press- Payment varies
2. Sterling Publishing- Payment negotiated. Sterling is a publisher with many imprints. Have fun here!
3. Girlworks - Pays \$50 per page
4. Group Publishing- Payment begins at \$150. Be sure to give Group a thorough look for all the areas where they accept submissions.



THE BEST GIFTS FOR WRITERS

I know it's days after Christmas but we're always looking for good gifts for writers . . . different than what they already have. Writers tend to think practically. After all, how many writers have much money to toss around frivolously?

Slow down and ponder this gift idea. It's easy on your pocket book and the recipient can't get it for himself. Give the gift of promotion.

IF YOUR WRITER IS AN AUTHOR:

1. Like their Facebook page and promote others you know to do the same in a special message.
2. Author has no Facebook page? Create one for him.
3. Buy a Facebook or GoogleSense Ad for him.
3. Post reviews on Amazon, Goodreads, and B&N.



"Omit needless words. Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts."

--William Strunk, Jr.

4. Write a review on your blog, and ask others to post it as well, or at least link to it.
5. Guest post on other blogs about your author friend.
6. Create a virtual book tour on behalf of your author.
7. Best of all, coordinate all of this to take place on a particular date, so that sales make a noticeable bump. This makes for a special day for your writer.
8. Design and/or purchase a set of business cards.
9. Design and/or purchase a set of postcards.
10. Buy an ad in a newspaper or magazine.

Forget the coffee mugs and subscriptions. Go for what writers hate to do and hate to pay for . . . promotion. You'd love to get that gift. You know you would, because then you could concentrate more on your writing.

Adapted from Funds For Writers Small Markets Newsletter by C. Hope Clark

- Never argue with an idiot. He'll drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.

- If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.

- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad

Submitted by Jim Callan

NETWO
P. O. Box 411
Winfield, TX 75493
www.netwo.org

NETWO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES! I want to join NETWO. I understand I will receive *With Pen In Hand* every month along with enjoying the fellowship and help of members of NETWO.

Membership in NETWO also entitles me to discounted registration for the Writers' Conference. Annual \$20 dues are payable in January of each year.

Send check (or join at a meeting) payable to NETWO along with completed form to:

NETWO

P. O. Box 411

Winfield, TX 75493

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____