



WITH PEN IN HAND

A PUBLICATION OF NETWO - NORTHEAST TEXAS WRITERS' ORGANIZATION

Next NETWO Meeting is
Thursday, Aug. 11, at 5:30 pm
Applebee's, Mt. Pleasant

October 2011
Editor: Gay Ingram
gaymingram@gmail.com

FREE WORKSHOP on Getting Published

WHO:

Caleb Pirtle, author of over 50 books and publisher of Gallivant Press

Stephen Woodfin , practicing lawyer for 25 years and author of legal thrillers

Rusty Shelton, President and CEO of Shelton Interactive

WHEN:

Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Pizza Inn on US Highway 271, Pittsburg, Texas.

- small, independent press- what do they offer?
- how does Gallivant Press operate? what materials they accept, what types of books they publish, what formats they publish in, and the costs of books when using POD or regular press runs?
- converting your manuscript into several e-formats, including Kindle and Nook.
- how much would such a service likely cost?
- what royalties you can expect?
- designing and developing a digital platform.
- ways to promote your book, with emphasis on social media.
- generating more media attention and building better social media buzz.

Check the website (www.netwo.org) to see the schedule

SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER NOW

Send an e-mail to James Callan (jimcallan_4@hotmail.com.) Include your name, address, and telephone number and put "Fall Workshop" in the Subject field.

July 2011 NETWO Minutes

NETWO August 11, 2011 Minutes

Members Present: Pattie Ball, Jim and Earlene Callan, , Bryan Freeman, Skip Hughes, Ross Jones, Tom and Galand Nuchols, Ed and Jean Pamplin, Lisa Simmons.

Guests Present: James and Suzanne Babbs came all the way from DeQueen, Arkansas.

—James is writing young adult historical fiction and added interesting information to the critique session (see below).

—Suzanne owns a bookstore and sometimes hosts as well as keeps a section of books by regional authors. Her pet peeve is not being able to sell to teachers because of errors that show up in books. (silverinkbooks@windstream.net or jasub1017@yahoo.com)

—Dona Cassel from Pittsburg, was at the Saturday meeting in Pittsburg. She likes writing short poetic pieces including one on the prayer tower. (donacassel@sbcglobal.net)

—Ron Hervy from Paris, Texas is wanting to return to an earlier interest in writing mysteries. (rhervy62@att.net)

President Skip Hughes called the meeting to order. Newcomers were introduced. The Treasurer's report by Bryan Freeman indicated a balance of \$11,856.66

BUSINESS reports:

—September 8th, next meeting day falls during Labor Day week, but discussion indicated meeting on that day was not a problem. (The first Labor Day celebration occurred on September 5, 1882 in New York. In March of 1887, Colorado became the first state to actually institute a law to recognize Labor Day as an official holiday, a means to recognize the working class of the nation.)

—Jim Callan made the motion to move the time of meeting to 6 p.m. for working members. Galand seconded the motion. There was some concern for the Texarkana group (not present at this meeting (remember Jackie Brown-she is not feeling well). Hopefully that will work for them. The motion carried. The next meeting will begin sharply at 6p.m.

—Donna Cassel asked that NETWO information be included in an packet to be passed out in Pittsburg.

—Earlene, membership chairman, indicated she now had an up to date member list. Susan Royal is in charge of phone communications. It was reaffirmed that visitors are able to receive two newsletters at which time membership is required to continue getting Pen In Hand which is now mostly sent through E-mail.

—The Saturday program at Pittsburg was reported successful. Jim Callan announced the next big Saturday venture will be the October 22nd program which will include three speakers: Stephen Woodfin and Kevin Pirdle representing Galavant Press and Rusty Shelton, publicity pro. The event is free to participants and will probably begin around 10 a.m.

—Pattie Ball noted the hunt for conference speakers is on. She has had one author (true crime) and one agent accept. Jim reaffirmed this year's conference would be the last weekend in April at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS;

—Robert Buck was in Louisiana working but everyone was reminded of the field trip to his hometown in Hugo on August 25th, 7 p.m. at the Cowboy Crossing Church. Music begins at 7p.m., chuck wagon cooking follows.

—The Franklin County Library in Mt. Vernon will be hosting authors on October 8th. They already have 11 signed up including Jory Sherman. If you are interested, call Lisa or Sue at 903-537-4916.

The meeting was adjourned.

READING:

—Lisa read her picture book, *Jumping Jacob*.

—Skip Hughes read from the opera he is working on, making a comment that he wrote another stanza to include Karen Watt's suggestion concerning the camel fitting through the Needle's Eye.

—Galand did not read her own writing but a hand-written sketch she found in an old composition book. She and Tom were cleaning out and this notebook had been saved many years ago, part of things left over in a house they had purchased in Amarillo in the 1970's.

Interestingly, our visitor James from DeQueen, Arkansas, is a Charlie Daniel fan and the words she read were from one of his hit songs. The song writer's name was Daniel and the writing was signed "Daniel." This may very well be a notebook with words to a famous song, penned by the writer prior to it being recorded. Cool.

This month's meeting left time for some visiting and was enjoyed by members and visitors.

BITS & PIECES



Booksignings for Mike Clifton's new book, *The Treasure Hunt Club*

Saturday, September 24th at Books A
Million in Longview from 2:00-5:00 PM
Saturday, October 15th at Barron's
"Bookfest" in Longview from 11:00-
1:00 PM

Christian Writers Conference 2011

Friday and Saturday, October 28 &
29, 2011

Friday - 2:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Ornelas Student Center - Marshall
Hall - Scarborough Hall
East Texas Baptist University
One Tiger Drive
Marshall, TX 75670

Contact for information and registra-
tion: [http://www.etbu.edu/News/
CWC/default.htm](http://www.etbu.edu/News/CWC/default.htm)

*This month we share with you Bettye Gilbert's **Peter's Test**, which won Honorable Mention in NETWO's 2011 Short Story Contest. -Ed.*

PETER'S TEST

Peter put his pencil down and glanced up at his mother. The glow of the lamp created a pool of light and a ring of shadows around the small room. He looked much younger than his 12 years as he pleaded, "Mama, help me with the questions, please."

"Son, you just look at the guide that I gave unto you," she answered without looking at the boy. She closed her eyes and stood very still for a moment clutching the hem of her apron before continuing to stir the big pot simmering on the old black stove.

"I think there are some mistakes and I'm getting mixed up," he sobbed, rubbing his eyes.

"I thought I learned there were 7 continents and you say there are 6. I don't understand, Mama. I want to do a good job on the test and make you and Papa proud of me."

His father sat listened quietly as the two talked. He never interfered with study time for he thought it was better for Anna to help their son prepare for the National Test. She was a good mother and always knew what was good for their child. She was very smart and knew best.

Peter continued, "Mama, can I ask my teacher about the continents tomorrow before the test?"

"NO!" Anna raised her voice at him. "You must never ask your teacher when I've told you what to answer. Remember, never!"

Anna grew tense and the lines in her face grew tight. She rolled her eyes upward as if she was looking for an answer from above. Fighting back tears she finished her preparation for the evening meal and set the table. She poured milk into the glasses, filled the large blue bowls with hot borsch and placed a loaf of fresh baked bread on the table. They ate their supper in silence. When he was finished eating Peter went back to his desk, closed his notebook and quietly left the room without looking at either of his parents. When he was inside his room he called out goodnight softly to them and closed the door.

"Why're you so harsh with the boy?" Papa asked when the light in Peter's room was out and the house was quiet as they began to get ready for bed.

"Let's don't talk about it tonight. I can't talk about it," she replied with her voice breaking and tears again swelling in her eyes.

"Anna, it will be alright. We'll pray for our son," he said as he reached for her and held her in his arms.

Morning came early and when the sun came up Anna, who had slept little, rose quietly and dressed. The house had grown cold during the night so she built a fire in the stove.

After that she went to the kitchen and prepared breakfast as usual. The warm sunlight streaming in the windows did not add the usual warmth to the room. She could not avoid the day they had dreaded. The door opened with a small squeak as she called softly to her son and walked to his bed. She leaned down and kissed his forehead and gently stroked his hair.

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He looked so young and innocent.

“Peter, you must get up and dress. I have your breakfast ready. I made you eggs and kolbasa to give you a good start to the day. It is cold out so wear something very warm today.”

She walked back to the kitchen and stood by the table quietly waiting for him to come in to eat. She wondered if she had done enough to prepare him for this day. Perhaps he would be smart enough to figure it out.

Peter came in, sat down at the table and started eating. He then spoke with a voice full of confidence, “Mama, I remember there really are 7 continents.”

“Peter, you don’t worry about the test today. Answer like Mama told you. Just answer questions any way at all and just get through with it as fast as you can.”

“I will do my best to do the right thing,” he answered, stressing the will.

“Oh, that’s not important, just get through with it as quickly as you can. We’ll do something fun tomorrow,” she replied.

Peter hurriedly finished his breakfast and gathered his things to leave. He hugged his parents and just as he reached the door he turned and looked at both of them, “Mama, I will do as you told me. In the night it came to me why you helped me so much. I will make you proud for I love you, too.” Pulling his warm ushanka snugly on his head he left the house.

Papa had sat watching and not saying a word until Peter was gone. He called to Anna to sit with him and talk. “Explain again to me the test,” he said. “I know I’m not smart and I don’t understand a lot of things, but are you right in your answers? Are you right about the test?”

“You are smart and you’re a good worker. You just don’t understand about the test. My friends and I have figured it out. The government is testing all young men when they are twelve. If they score high on the test they are being taken away.”

“What do you mean? Taken away - where?” He asked.

“We don’t know, but it’s been happening. All the other mothers in the village are beginning to realize that it’s not a coincidence that the smart boys are being taken away to some government place soon after the test. They have been taken away and not heard from again. Papa, I know Peter is the smartest of all the children his age. I’ve only tried to protect him.”

Tears began to roll down her cheeks as she continued talking. “The leaders say the wars have been caused by smart people. The North Americans and their world was destroyed because of that back in 2050. Their bombs and missiles and more secret weapons frightened the world and the world leaders came together and showed them. Fear caused them to develop weapons and fear caused them to perish because of those weapons.”

Taking a deep breath she said, “I read that our new government leaders want to protect the world. They want only average boys to grow up to be workers and help rule the world from our country. My fear is Peter is too smart and that is why I gave him wrong answers. My prayer is that he is smart enough to know that to fail the test he will pass for life.”

Papa listened quietly and when she was finished talking he raised his eyes, cleared his throat and began to speak. “That could be a reason, but that’s not the real reason they want the bright young men to disappear. Yea, *I know why!* They don’t want help ruling the world. They don’t want smart people around for another reason. I have listened and watched what is happening. I know they want to go back to the way it was in the old days. They want peasants again. If

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Anna opened her eyes wide with realization and exclaimed, “Oh! Papa! You are smart and you are probably right and our Peter knows?”



NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Simmons
190 Cr 45650
Blosson, TX 75416
thesimmons@dishmail.com

Dona Cassel
101 Kent Drive
Pittsburg, TX 75686
903-856-3880
donacassel@sbcglobal.net

Ron Hervey
1120 Cope Dr.
Paris, TX 75462
rhervey62@att.net

James & Suzanne Babb
P.O. Box 547
DeQueen, AR 71832
870-584-6131
jasub1017@yahoo.com

NETWO CONFERENCE UPDATE

- New location and dates set! April 27 & 28, 2012 at Mt. Pleasant Civic Center
- For 2012 we are relocating to the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center, a large facility located near I-30 and surrounded by restaurant choices and hotels.
- We are in early planning stages, so please check back often, as we will update the site as plans develop.

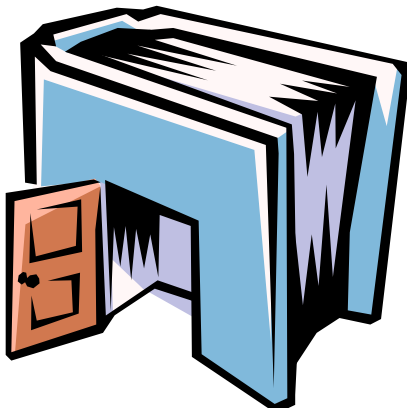
from Pattie Bell, 2012 Conference Chair

Several NETWO authors will be displaying their books at the Franklin County Library during its annual Country Festival on Oct 8th between 10 - 2.

Area Conference

Where: The Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr., Bryan, TX
When: September 10, 2011, 8:30-4:00 (Lunch will be provided)
Speakers: Suzanne Lowe and Jorge Molina, Evidential Artists, Texas Rangers
Jeff Tomberlin, Forensic Entomologist, Texas A&M University
Steve Smith, Cognitive Psychologist, Texas A&M University

To register or to find out more, go to
<http://brazoswriters.eventbrite.com>
<http://www.brazoswriters.org>



NETWO's First Saturday at Pizza Inn in Pittsburg



Fredna Stuckey, a writing teacher at LeTourneau University, spoke at the August First Saturday for writer's interested in sharpening their writer's pen. Ms. Stuckey gave us a quick review of comma usage closing with her "Stuckey's Rule: If in doubt leave it out." A question was asked about using a comma before 'too' as in – **He wanted to go, too.** The old rule is to use a comma before too as in the sentence above. The new rule is not to use 'too' at all. Use the word also instead. The exception being in dialogue.

Ms. Stucky stressed the difference between 'editing' and 'revising'. Editing deals with spelling, punctuation and grammar while 'revising' deals with changing the writing content. She pointed out that Hemingway revised the last page of *Farewell to Arms* 39 times before he was satisfied that he had chosen exactly the right words to convey the idea he was trying to get across to the reader. Ms. Stucky explained that language changes to meet the needs of the culture. Eskimos, for instance, have 27 verbs to describe falling snow. Their very lives are affected by snow so the need to have exact words describing it is critical.

Dialog is the single most important thing to liven up writing, was one of Ms. Stuckey's points for the author to consider. Another, was that dialogue allows for white space on the page, an important fact for the reader.

Ms. Stuckey's three page handout was an excellent outline for her talk. We appreciate her writing, editing, and revising hints as well as her entertaining antidotes. August 6 was an excellent day for any writer to be at the Pizza Inn in Pittsburg, Texas.

NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE

There will **not** be a First Saturday program in September as it is part of the Labor Day weekend and many people will be out of town or have company. The second Saturday is in conflict with the East Texas Book Fair. BIG plans are being made for a FREE fall workshop in October sponsored by NETWO. Writers all over East Texas need to check for more information. At the present time the workshop is planned for the third Saturday of October if all our speakers schedules permit. Stayed tuned for further details.

Submitted by Galand Nuchols

MARKETS

LITERARY LAUNDRY COMPETITIONS

<http://literarylaunder.com/submissions>

NO ENTRY FEE

Each issue of Literary Laundry journal is accompanied by a writing competition. All pieces submitted to us for review will be entered into consideration for our Awards of Distinction. We offer the following cash awards:

\$500 for best poem

\$500 for best short story

\$250 for best one-act drama

In addition to considering undergraduate works for the Awards of Distinction, we will also consider them for the following undergraduate awards:

\$250 for best poem

\$250 for best short story

Lastly, each issue of Literary Laundry will feature the work of one visual artist. The "Featured Artist" will Receive an award of \$100.

Submissions for our fourth issue are due December 1, 2011.

FUR FISH GAME

http://www.furfishgame.com/contact_us/index.php

In addition to hunting, trapping and fishing, we publish first-person accounts of wilderness survival, adventure, and everyday life in the bush.

Our articles teach you how to hunt grizzly bears, trap coyotes, and catch 40-pound muskies. We also help you tag bigger deer, bag more rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, and foxes, catch more bluegills, catfish, and bass.

We look back fondly on the classic firearms; tell you what those antique traps are really worth on today's collector market.

Yet we also review the best new guns and gear, and tell you how much to expect for your wild furs & ginseng, all from the unique perspective of everyday, practical outdoorsmen.

Pays up to \$250 for features, profiles, personal experiences, hunts.

"Plotting is like sex. Plotting is about desire and satisfaction, anticipation and release. You have to arouse your reader's desire to know what happens, to unravel the mystery, to see good triumph. You have to sustain it, keep it warm, feed it, just a little bit, not too much at a time, as your story goes on. That's called suspense. It can bring desire to a frenzy, in which case you are in a good position to bring off a wonderful climax.

"

~COLIN GREENLAND

FIFTY THREE YEARS
BY
BRYAN FREEMAN

Last month on August 23, my wife , Wally and I celebrated our fifty-third wedding anniversary and as usual we went to Red Lobster for our dinner, Wally's favorite place. Wally wore the silver necklace that I gave her fifty-five years ago for a Christmas present, prior to my departure from Germany to the States. The waitress helped Wally put it on, and became misty-eyed when she heard the story of the necklace and that we were celebrating our fifty-third wedding anniversary.

We sat at our usual table and the waitress came and took our order of salad , lobster tail, a glass of wine for Wally, and tea for me. After we finished our salad, the waitress brought our lobster tail. Before we began Wally said "Let's toast our anniversary ." We clinked wine glass and tea cup and indulged in our meal.

As we savored our dinner, I looked at Wally and said, "I remember fifty-three years ago we were living in a two room apartment." Wally nodded her head in acknowledgement, as she savored a morsel of lobster.

" I remember," I continued, "our car, a third-hand thing, spent more time at the repair garage than on the road."

Wally took a sip of wine, and nodded her head up and down.

"We didn't have much money then either, we had to split a hamburger and fries at the dinner. Remember?"

"Yes I remember," Wally replied.

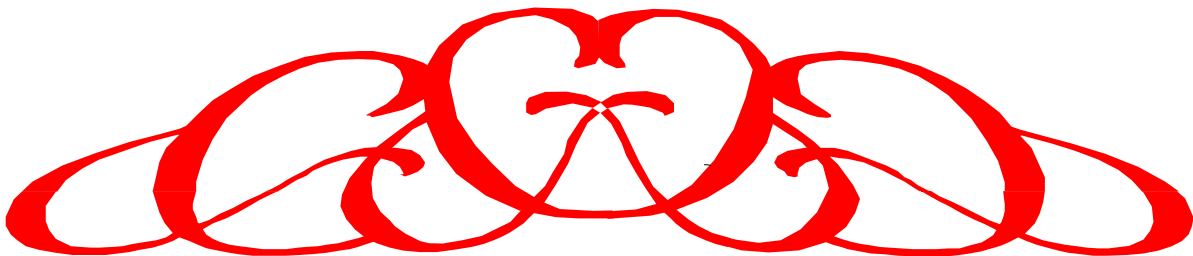
Wistfully I said, " I also remember that I had a hot blonde sleeping beside me in bed."

Wally smiled shyly and had another sip of wine.

"Now look at us, we have a nice house in the country and two dependable trucks to drive without worry and we are financially stable and eating lobster tail." Jokingly I said. " Look at you now your fifty three years older, I kept my end of the deal."

Wally had another bite of lobster and a sip of wine, then said, "Go ahead and get yourself a hot little blonde, and I'll make sure that you relive the two room apartment and a broke-down car and half-hamburgers."

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



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's 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 # _____