

THE PPW WINDOW

A Newsletter for Writers



Meeting Saturday

January 21, 2012

St. Stephen UMC

East Campus

4600 South Western Street

Greeting time 9:30 a.m.

Morning Session 10—12 a.m.

Lunch 12—12:45 p.m.

Business Mtg. 12:45 -1 p.m.

Afternoon Session

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Afterglow 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Lunch is \$10.00

Get reservation to

Janet Taylor by 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

by phone: 806-282-1227,

or email:

ppwlunch@gmail.com

Volume 2012, Issue 1

www.panhandleprowriters.org

January-February 2012

Morning: “Circles of Desire: A Workshop for Refining Your Plot and Synopsis (Fiction or Creative Nonfiction)”



Guest Speaker Barbara Brannon,
Marketing Director, TTU Press

early idea to late draft. Bring your materials for one project—ideas, notes, outline, manuscript, whatever you have—to this hands-on session.

Barbara is Marketing Director at Texas Tech University Press. She is a past presenter at Frontiers in Writing and judge

in our writing contest.

She is also a writer, photographer, musician, and artist.

See more about Barbara at her website: <http://www.barbarabrannon.com>

President’s Report from Kenja Purkey

Get Involved with PPW!

There are some changes going on at Panhandle Professional Writers!

First, we have a new website, which is much more functional than our old site was. PPW board member Joe Trent took

on that project and the result is great! Be sure to check it out at www.panhandleprowriters.org. In addition, our PPW Facebook page at www.facebook.com/panhandleprowriters is being updated on a much more regular basis. Be sure to “friend” our page (eventually it will change to a “fan” page) for the latest program and conference updates. Our Facebook page also serves as a great place for PPW members to promote themselves. If you have an event like a book signing, or if you’ve just made your latest WIP an Amazon download, feel free to post it to our Facebook wall for other members to see. The same goes for our newsletter. If you’ve got something going on, we want to know about it! Just submit it on our website under the “Contact PPW” link and we will

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What do your characters really want—and what’s keeping them from getting it? In a fresh twist on the protagonist/antagonist, or conflict, model of analyzing a story’s structure, author and editor Barbara Brannon helps you tighten and focus your plot, create a persuasive synopsis, and craft your one-sentence “elevator speech.” This workshop is useful for anyone with a work of fiction or nonfiction in any stage of completion, from

Editor: Rhonda Trent 806-632-1512 rjtrent@nts-online.net
Assistant editor: Joe Trent 806-632-0467 jdtrent@jdtrent.com

Who We Are: Panhandle Professional Writers was founded as Panhandle Pen Women and is located in the Texas Panhandle. We are the second oldest writing group in the nation. Our membership includes writers of various genre who have come together to learn more about the craft of writing. Everyone from the unpublished beginner to the multi-published author will find support, encouragement, and friends on all levels of their writing endeavors.

The PPW WINDOW is published preceding the six all day mini-workshops held on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Lunch reservations are due on the Tuesday before the meetings. A nationally recognized writer's conference, *Frontiers in Writing*, is held each June. Members may participate in the on-line discussion group. The dues are \$30 for the year and renewal is each January 1st.

Gold membership for donations up to \$99 over dues.

Platinum membership for donations \$100 or more over dues.

Dues can be mailed to PPW, Box 19303, Amarillo, TX 79114

Notes and Announcements

KACV-TV to Feature Harry Haines's New Book

Amarillo's PBS station, KACV (channel 2/cable 3), will present a 30-minute program about Harry Haines's new novel, *The Cover-up at Ann Arbor*. The program will air on Thursday, January 12, at 8:00 p.m.

Taped as an interview with Ellen Robertson Green on her "Face to Face" series, Harry responds to a series of questions about the novel, about how it was researched and written. Ellen's mother, Pauline Robertson, is a past-president of PPW, so it was only natural that some of the discussion included Panhandle Writers.

Fiction in a Flash!

Be sure to go to www.FlashFiction5.com to check out the monthly flash-fiction contest. On the first of every month, a

new list of 5 words is posted on the Web site. The words for this month, January, 2012, are "piano," "estimate," "innocuous," "hike," and "bilious." (Check that last one out in your dictionary or online!) Anyone over 18 years of age is invited to write a story, including those words or variations of the words, and send it by e-mail on the "Contact" page. The stories are to include characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution, all in 100 words or less! Sounds impossible, but it's not. In fact, it's great fun. A judge then selects the best stories for the month, and the winning story is posted the next month on the Web site, on the "Writings" page. So it's an opportunity to receive almost-instant gratification by writing such a SHORT story and to get published online!

And plans are afoot to publish a new anthology of flash fiction

this spring, including the winners and runners-up from January, 2010, through December, 2011. If that volume is well-received, another will be considered for future winners. Currently, five stories are posted on the Web site, because of the exceptional quality of the November competition, so there are plenty of examples to check out, to see how some of the writers have succeeded.

The site and contest are operated and sponsored by PPW members Janda Raker, Joan Sikes, Diane Neal, and Mary Yokum.

- Janda Raker

Want This Faster?

We can email you this newsletter, get it to you sooner, and save on postage. Let us know and we will get you on the email list! Contact Rhonda Trent: rjtrent@nts-online.net or Nancy Keel: keelnancy@yahoo.com

Notes and Announcements (Contd.)

YMCA Writer's Voice: Opportunities to learn more of the craft

The YMCA Writer's Voice, in Amarillo, has a great lineup of classes for the coming year on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. Instructors include many of our own talented and skilled writers. Follow the link noted below for more information. Topics of interest include an intensive look at children's literature taught by some of our own such as Natalie Bright during the month of January, women's fiction by Phyllis Miranda in March, and research for writing taught by Dianne Sagan in May, among others, just to give you a glimpse of what's in store. Be sure to go to the website and check it out. https://amarilloymca.org/Writer_s_Voice_Group.html

Lunch!

Don't forget to RSVP for the luncheon at the January meeting. You may reserve your lunch by emailing, Janet Taylor, at <http://ppwlunch@gmail.com> or by leaving a message on Janet's cell phone 282-1227.

Youth Writing Contest Chair needed

The Youth Writing Contest has been a community service project sponsored by PPW, most recently revived by PPW President Barbara Propst around 2001. Thanks to Vicki Schoen for keeping it going these last few years, and now we need volunteers to continue this

contest. Anyone interested in helping? You'll spread the word to teachers and schools in our immediate area, line-up judges, notify winners, and organize an awards ceremony in July. If you enjoy working with kids and teachers, this is a great opportunity to serve PPW and the writing community plus encourage future writers! Contact PPW President Kenja Purkey [knpurkey@hotmail.com] or natalie@nataliebright.com. Vicki has everything ready to pass on including guidelines and contact information.

Panhandle Pro Writers on Facebook

If you're on Facebook, be sure to get connected. A great way to network and keep in touch with each other and get the latest news. <http://facebook.com/panhandleprowriters>

FIW Conference 2012

Find a jar or can, and every time you put your spare change inside say "This is for me." Label the jar FiW 2012. Then let's see you at Frontiers in Writing June 28-30 for "Write Weekend". No excuses this time. Follow your passion and let's do this!

Conference Details

Harvey Stanbrough, Arizona author, poet, and writing instructor will be our Friday lunch Keynote in addition to conducting workshops on both days covering dialogue, flash fiction, and poetry. BONUS: Harvey will be conducting

a bonus session on Sunday, Essentials of Digital Publishing, 9:30 AM, Ambassador Hotel.

Jodi Thomas will keynote our Friday evening dinner. This bestselling novelist and author of 34 books is also a 5 time RITA award winner, the coveted recognition from the Romance Writer's of America which earned her a place in their Hall of Fame. She serves as Writer-in-Residence at West Texas A&M University and loves talking to newbie writers.

Candace Havens, bestselling author and leading entertainment journalist, will be our Saturday lunch Keynote in addition to conducting workshops on both days including her fast draft method, Dream Big-Write Big, and Publishing 101.

2-day conference plus all meals included, only \$135 if registered before June 1, 2012

Or choose 1-day conference only.

- Natalie Bright

Yet More Conference Goodies

Other notables include former editor and current ghostwriter Hilary Sares, former criminal investigator and now author Jeff C. Campbell, attorney specializing in intellectual property rights, Chris Stewart, Barnes and Noble manager Jim Gleason, and more to be announced! Check the web site for more details: <http://www.panhandleprowriters.org/fiw-conference>

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get it in the newsletter for you.

Second, we are blessed to have so many great writers in our area who are doing great things. We also love to learn from them. If you have expertise in an area of writing, marketing, or other knowledge that would benefit your fellow members and would like to provide one of our bi-monthly programs or a conference session, let us know. Prospective presenters are asked to submit a program outline. Just contact us through the website.

Third, we need your help. We have current openings for board members, as well as more positions opening in June. It's the hard work of our board members and volunteers that keeps PPW going and provides the programs and fellowship you've come to expect. If you'd like to serve as a PPW board member, please let us know.

Finally, PPW is here to serve you. We welcome your comments and suggestions about how to make PPW an even better organization. We want you to get involved with PPW. It is that involvement that makes PPW a vital organization that enriches its members.

Kenja Purkey

November Business Meeting Minutes

PPW President, Kenja Purkey, called the regular meeting to order.

(Minutes Continued)

Volunteers are needed for several positions. Currently, we are looking to fill the position of secretary. Positions needing to be filled for the upcoming year include treasury chair, membership chair, and president elect. If you are interested in serving PPW in some capacity, please contact Kenja.

Hospitality Chair, Janet, announced the suggestion from several members to have a PPW Christmas Party, which was posted on the announcement loop. She has not received much feedback. The date of December 10 at the Holiday Inn was suggested, however in order to confirm the room a minimum of ten members must pay in advance. Three people indicated that this date would work and that they would be interested in participating. Janet suggested this be dropped due to lack of interest from the PPW membership.

Natalie Bright, FiW Chair, gave a brief report on the this year's conference, scheduled for June 29 and 30th at Amarillo College. For detailed information, check the website. We hope to have the registration form up by January, with the ability to pay registrations online through PayPal. Also, this year, Natalie is bringing back the 1st Timer Orientation to help first time conference goers. (Detailed FiW Update is included in this newsletter)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Who's Your Character?

By Joe Douglas Trent

Ever read or hear a great remark and think you'll remember it so you don't write it down? Of course I did that just yesterday so I can't quote or attribute it. But it goes something like this: *Every author unwittingly reveals something of her/himself in the protagonist.*

Do we insert ourselves into the "good" character's spot? How can we not, at least a little? After all, there is no other person in the world who gives us direct access into their thoughts, hopes, dreams, triumphs, and regrets.

How about the antagonist? Ever want permission to be bad?

It's probably an inescapable fact that there is some of us in all our characters. But it can be a trap that lets us put our own values, preconceptions, and experiences into the mouths of characters who should come from all kinds of different backgrounds.

One of the most valuable pieces of advice I have received came from a friend. Of my protagonist, he said, "Michael is a thirty-five year old guy trying to figure things out, not a fifty-odd-year-old Joe who can look back with some experience."

Or something like that. I neglected to write it down.

"Everybody walks past a thousand story ideas every day. The good writers are the ones who see five or six of them. Most people don't see any."
- Orson Scott Card

Round Table Report

Cheryle Cooper

Writes: I mostly write non-fiction and I've been published in the non-fiction and fiction market
WIP: I'm outlining a children's book.

Suzi Sandoval

Writes: Non-fiction

Linda D Hill

Writes: Fiction
WIP: Yes
Sales, awards, contracts: Book – *Survival Ain't Enough*

Janda Raker

Writes: Travel essays, flash fiction, novel
WIP: All of the above and an anthology of flash fiction winners from website contacts – www.flashfiction5.com

Patsy Rae Dawson

Writes: I'm a true romance writer. I write about the good, the bad, and the ugly of marriage from the Bible
Awards, sales, contracts: I am now a certified personality trainer by Classeminars, Inc.

Deryl Stephens (aka Scara Mouche)

Writes: Poetry, short stories, novels, screenplays
WIP: My epic parody novel *A Father for His Son*
Awards, sales, contracts: In a few weeks my business and myself will be a member of Strathmore's Who's Who. *A Father for His Son* to be published before Christmas

Rhonda Trent

Writes: Short inspirational pieces, short story.
WIP: Working on a cookbook for our church
Awards, sales, contracts: First published work in *Power for Today*: "Roots and Living Water"

Bernice Simpson

Writes: Non fiction
WIP: Cat in a Corner – Conversations Overheard in a Writers Group

Jared Neal (past president)

Recent sales, awards, contracts: His Christmas story is in Accent West.

Adam Huddleston

Writes: Sci-fi, fantasy and horror
WIP: "Mr. Linden's Library" inspired by illustration by Chris Van Allsburg and graphic novel "Man vs. Man vs zombies (tentative title)"

PPW Officers 2011-2012

President: Kenja Purkey
 806-570-1468
knpurkey@hotmail.com
President Elect: Matt Sherley
 806-679-8197
mjsherley@suddenlink.net
Membership: Nancy Keel
 806-433-6321
keelnancy@yahoo.com
Newsletter: Rhonda Trent
 806-632-1512
rjtrent@nts-online.net
Programs: Suzanne Bogue
 806-341-6995
sznbnbg@gmail.com
VP/Conference Chair: Natalie Bright
 806-655-4046
natalie@nataliebright.com
Hospitality: Janet Taylor
 806-282-1227
janetcoopertaylor@gmail.com
ppwlunch@gmail.com
Secretary: Claudio Stravato
 806-359-4473
cstravato@suddenlink.com
Treasurer: Lynnette Jalufka
 806-420-8637
ljjalufka@suddenlink.net
Publicity: John Brock
jbuddy2002@yahoo.com
Technology: Joe Trent
 806-632-0467
jdtrent@jdtrent.com
Past President: Vacant

Round Table Report (Continued)**Elisha Cheeseman**

Writes: Poetry articles, short stories
 WIP: Short story; Curse of the Twill (entered in a contest, women on writing)
 Awards, sales, contracts: Poem about tigers called Teacher published on the Big Cat Rescue website (Big Cat rescues is a nonprofit rescue sanctuary based in Tampa, FL)

Dianne G Sagan

Writes: Christian and historical, women's fiction; writing books
 WIP: Abigail of Tarsus, Miriam's Room, new release:
 Awards, sales, contracts: New release: Tools and tips: *What Every Writer Needs to Know to Go Pro*

Kim Black

Writes: Fiction, Christian fiction, blog: Cinema Toast
 WIP: Little Black Dress, Promise of Purple

Barbara Propst

Writes: Women's fiction
 WIP: How Do You Like Me Now – novel file edit;
 Blog: wordsmith6.wordpress.com

Linda Walker

Writes: Family history, how to's
 WIP: Memories of Life on the Farm

Kathy Kendall-Tackett

Writes: Non-fiction, mostly in women's health
 WIP: A book on the health effects of childhood abuse
 Awards, sales, contracts: Started a new small press, Praeclarus Press, in women's health

Laura Harrison

Writes: Children, romance, short stories
 WIP: Kelly's Hurdle

Louva Hunt

Writes: Local history
 Sales, awards, contracts: Sept, 2011 *Accent West* "Lost A Ranch Wagon Boss"

Mathis Rogers

Writes: Romance/fantasy/sci-fi
 WIP: "The Chronicals of Brad"
 Sales, awards, contracts: Self published.

Nan Rinella

Writes: Working on 1st novel – Narnia Inspired
 WIP: Travel blog & Writers Encourage Blog
 Sales, awards: C. S. Lewis Foundation Conference Coordinator

PPW Website

New look. Up-to-date information. Check it out! <http://www.panhandleprowriters.org>.

If you haven't had an opportunity to take a recent look at the website for PPW, do so at your earliest convenience.

The website has up-to-date information regarding current events and happenings of PPW for the budding novice writer and seasoned author, as well. Kudos to those who work very hard to keep us abreast of news and events to assist each of us in staying connected and honing the craft. Thanks to Joe Trent, Suzanne Bogue, and Natalie Bright for the precious time they each have contributed to keeping us informed.

Plans for the future include opportunities for you as a writer, to contribute and showcase short pieces of your works as well as provide links to information on the craft of writing from the seasoned and experienced of the field. It will be a small but powerful way to get your name and work into the public eye, and share what you are driven to do, as well as learn more from the experts about what you are impassioned to do; to WRITE. If you are interested in making a contribution, contact Joe Trent (jdtrrent@jdtrrent.com), Technology Chair, for more information.

"First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him!"
 - Ray Bradbury

Round Table Report (Continued)**Joe Trent**

Writes: Novels, flash fiction, songs
 WIP: A paranormal redemption story

Etc. From the Editor

New year, new opportunities, new ideas, and a chance to start fresh. When we watch the ball drop and the celebration begin, faces and smiles are eager to put away the toils, distresses, and perhaps disappointments of the year passing and look with anticipation at the idea of a “clean slate” with the new year and opportunity for renewal and a fresh perspective.

This idea of the “clean slate” brings to mind the anticipation we share as writers. A fresh sheet of paper (or in this age of technology, a blank new document screen), can be both daunting and exciting. Sitting at lunch with friends recently we were discussing New Year’s resolutions. Of course, there were the typical responses of exercise

more, be a daily Bible reader, be nicer to others—all good things. Mine was to present myself to the fresh page with more diligence and to WRITE.

This last week I had the glorious experience of seeing my name at the bottom of my first published work. It was a little article I contributed to a quarterly publication of daily devotional pieces, “Power for Today”. It was like a drug that motivates me to want more.

I love the idea of being able to say, “I am a writer.” Then I realize with a small inner smile that I have been one all along. Happy New Year, fellow writers! The blank page is like a new snow to play in. Now get to it and WRITE!!

- Rhonda Trent
 PPW Newsletter Editor

Postcards From the Muse

By Nancy Keel

The old house sits on its own little acre of land. It’s beautiful in its dilapidation, sunburned gray siding, broken windows, roof falling in. You can’t stop looking at it and wondering about its story.

How many old buildings have you seen as you drive down the road, ancient places full of history and drama? Do you notice shapes moving around inside? Do you think that if you listen closely you will hear whispering? Eerie music? Phantom laughter?

Congratulations. You have received a postcard from your muse.

Nancy Keel contributes with five other writers whose works can be found on the blog wordsmithsix.wordpress.com posting every Friday under Nandy Elkes. Be sure to visit the site for your latest “Postcard From the Muse.”

Dues Form

Your Name and Address are on the label, which is on the reverse side

Clip out this section, which includes your name and address on the other side, and mail with your check to

PPW, Box 19303, Amarillo, TX 79114

Email address (for announcements) _____

Telephone Number _____

Membership level paid for:

_____ regular (\$30)

_____ Gold (up to \$99 over dues) _____ Platinum (\$100 over dues)

PPW is an enthusiastic, supportive organization. We depend on dues for our programs, and especially the Frontiers in Writing Conference. See page 2 for additional information and levels of membership. Mail to:

Panhandle Professional Writers

PO Box 19303

Amarillo, Texas 79114

“Most writers regard the truth as their most valuable possession, and therefore are most economical in its use.”
- Mark Twain



Thanks to Chris Stewart for enlightening us about copyright laws at our November meeting. To get the word out, we made video recordings and posted them on Youtube without permission. Just kidding, Chris.

From:
THE PPW WINDOW
c/o Rhonda Trent, Editor
9707 N. Detroit
Lubbock, TX 79415

To: