

THE PPW WINDOW

A Newsletter for Writers



Meeting Saturday
November 21, 2009

VOLUME 2009, ISSUE 6

www.panhandleprowriters.org

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

Program information

St. Stephen UMC West Campus, 4415 Wesley Dr., off 45th between Coulter and Soncy, WHICH HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM THE SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

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.
Aft. Session 1:00-3:00 p.m.
“Afterglow” 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Lunch is \$10.00

Get your reservation to

Laura Harrison by 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
or

phone 806-355-0110

or email

ppwlunch@yahoo.com

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Morning Program



Jack W. London is an Austin lawyer and an award winning author of the *French Letters Trilogy*; book 1 is *Virginia's War-Tierra, Texas, 1944*. In an interview, London answers the question “What first fascinated you about writing?” “...I read “The Eve of St. Agnes”, then read a marked up draft in which Keats had struggled with word choices about the sound that a woman’s night clothes make on the way to the floor. I hadn’t gathered until then that writing was work, and it was rewarding to discover

the many ways one could express a single idea.” Read the entire interview at the website: www.virepress.com/vire_press_epk.html, and then come hear him speak!

Afternoon Program



Featuring Delbert Trew

After retiring from a lifetime of farming and ranching, I began writing for the McLean News in 1990, promoting museums and Old Route 66. This effort evolved into writing newsletters as these entities grew. In 1996 I became editor of the Barbed Wire Collector Magazine and

began submitting free-lance articles to other magazines. The Amarillo Globe News began publishing my “It’s All Trew” weekly columns in January of 2001 with Amarillo.com and TexasEscapes.com placing many on the Internet.

Being a long-time member of PPW, I consider it a privilege to present a program to fellow members. My program, “Writing, Other Than Fiction”, will show examples of news columns, newsletters, magazine articles, headers and intros, simple web design, movie and documentary production scripts and non-fiction book publishing.

The program includes writing suggestions and tips and ends with a Q & A.

President’s Report from Craig Keel

We had good attendance at the September meeting. We want to welcome Julianna Anderson, Ingrid Briles, Kyt Eubanks, Tom Hale, Eddie Melin as new members. It’s exciting to see the organization continue to grow and it is our desire to offer tools and helpful information to the

writers of all genres and encourage them to succeed in their craft. The September meeting certainly followed that ideal.

Rich Jones provided practical information on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. His presentation helped in

understanding how tools like Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, and a myriad of other social web-based sites could be beneficial to writers.

For a writer, social networking sites are beneficial in several ways.

(Continued on page 2)

Editor: Bobette Doerrie 806-658-2264 ppwnewsletter@yahoo.com

Assistant editor: Jerome Doerrie 806-658-2264 k5is@yahoo.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

President's Report (continued)

First, they can help you make connections with other writers who are trying to achieve the same goals. The ability to discuss with others the techniques that work, and those that might not, can help you as a writer avoid mistakes and pitfalls by increasing your knowledge of the writing craft.

Second, social networking sites can provide the ability to contact and reach out to successful writers and their publishers, creating opportunities that you might not otherwise have. Due to the high volume of manuscripts received by publishers, many good writers may be overlooked. By networking with publishers, agents, and the authors who write for them, your connections could turn into an asset when you are ready to seek publication.

Third is marketing. As much as we would like for our writing to sell itself, or for our publishers to do all the marketing, we will need to do some of it, if not most, for

ourselves. A majority of publishers will want to know your platform - in other words, do you have an audience? With social networking sites, you can develop a potential vast audience for your writing. The Panhandle Professional Writers organization currently has both a MySpace and Facebook pages. If you are MySpace or Facebook members, don't forget to request to be "friends" with the PPW.

In the afternoon session, Dianne Sagan and Mary Yoakum helped us gain hands-on experience in Flash Fiction. We learned what Flash Fiction is, and we were challenged to think of different ways it could be used in other areas of writing. These fiction stories usually average 100 words or less, can be used as good warm up exercises before starting your regular writing session or for that needed jump start during writer's block. The ability of taking five words and

including them in a few sentences, creating a short fiction story, could help plow through the blank spots or fill in areas that need help in larger novels, or it could be that you just want to write a Flash Fiction Anthology. We are pleased to announce that Frank Sobey from Amarillo College has accepted the position of FIW Conference chair and we are looking forward to working with him to have a successful conference.

Also we want to thank Vicki Schoen for Chairing the Youth Contest for 2010. I know she will do a great job. If you want to get more involved, contact me by phone or email. I know we can find something for you to help with. Be sure to have your lunch reservations turned into Laura Harrison on time, so she can turn them in to the caterer.

We look forward to seeing you in November.

Rory Craig Keel

Roundtable Report—Nancy Keel, Membership

The following PPWers are on the “write track”:

September, 2009 Meeting

Edyth Jackson –Writes: at present non-fiction

Work in Progress: continuing newsletter – The Episode for Eta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma

Carleta Fernandes – Writes: memoir / non-fiction, maybe a little flash fiction

Work in Progress: Traveling to Canada, Memoir of My Son, Jacen

Nan Rinella –Writes Non-fiction

Work in Progress: Promoting CS Lewis retreat & Writers Workshop over Halloween; Entered Good Housekeeping short story contest – Results in December

Recent Sales, Awards & Contracts: Writing a blog on www.cslewis.org

Nancy Keel –Writes: Horror/Thriller/Mainstream

Work in Progress: Novel – Maggie’s Wedding (Working Title), several short stories

Recent Sales, Awards & Contracts: Contract with Moth Publications, motherhalo.com, short story “Mother of the Monster” published on houseofhorror.org.uk, Issue 5

Dianne G. Sagan –Writes: fiction, ghostwriter, online articles, non-fiction

Recent Sales, Awards, Contracts: Shelter From the Storm (coming out in November); flash fiction anthology (coming out in November).

Interested In Critique Group

Cheryl Beckley –Writes: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry

Work in Progress: a novel on life in a southeast Texas sawmill town

Mary Roper-Byrd – Writes: (Most Recently) self-help book “Getting Over Him And Moving On” in progress

Work in Progress: Teaching a memoir writing workshop at Hale County Senior Citizen Center

Interested In Critique Group

Mary Yokum –Writes: Genealogical research; life memoirs in the deep south

Work in Progress: Book on flash fiction is being published

Eddie Melin – Writes: Memoir

Work in Progress: Stories From An Old Man – just published

Dwight Vick – Writes: Academic Text books, articles/books on South

Work in Progress: 2 Contracts to be completed by end of October

Laura Stephens - Writes: Near Death Experiences – Angelic Encounters- Miraculous Healing – When God Steps In In the Nick of Time As it Relates to God’s Word

Interested in Critique Group

Joe Trent – Work in Progress Researching for a new novel involving American Indian Culture

Bernard Ray Tillery –Writes: Historical fiction, science fiction, engineering history, engineering technical

Work in Progress: New Fiction Venture (Science Fiction) – “Malsrail” Have “POD” on “Young Patriots,” “The Bonning,” and “Home Construction Quality Assurance Manual”



Marianne Logan – Writes: Poetry, articles

Work in Progress: Poetry

Recent Sales, Awards, Contracts: Poetry Society of Oklahoma, Poetry 1st rhymed, 2nd unrhymed, IWA 1st rhymed, 2nd tied unrhymed 1st articles, 3rd High Prairie Poets, Lone Star Haiku Poets’ Society – 2nd and 4th Fridays, 11:00 Jackson Grill, 1300 S. Van Buren beneath Clock Tower.

Ingrid Briles – Writes: Short stories, articles, stage plays

Work in Progress: Historical Fiction Novel – Faith Based
Recent Sales, Awards, Contracts: Honorable Mention – WV Writers Conference, New Play Contest 2009. St. Martin’s Press – Christmas Miracles by Cecil Murphey and Marten Gibson
Interested in Critique Group

Elisha Cheeseman – Writes: Poetry, Journaling, whatever I need to write.

Work in Progress: I have just begun a book about working in retail. Interested in critique group

Bobette Doerrie– Writes: articles on healthy relationships, blogs, curriculum for schools, poetry.

Work in progress: newspaper article on loveisrespect.org project, kindergarten curriculum, article for publication by Texas Council Against Family Violence

Announcements



Amarillo businessman, musician and patron of the arts, new PPW member **Eddie Melin** has delighted generations of Amarillo folks with his stories of life on the High Plains, experiences in World War II and working with the Amarillo Symphony. He has written "his two books-his first and his last" - *Stories from an Old Man*. At ninety-seven, he fits the title and is full of stories. This book holds his tales about his book and record store, Cooper & Melin--and a resulting censorship trial--the symphony, and other local entities.

Frank Carden, a PPW member from Las Cruces, writes about relationships of people on the edge of society. He just returned from a signing for his novel at the Read It Again book store in Houston. His novel, *The Prostitutes of Post Office Street*, is the story of three women who worked in the red-light district of Galveston, '54, but who tried to live ordinary lives otherwise. The novel is available online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Hastings, Borders

and in the book stores in the Houston -Galveston area.

Abilene Writers Guild has an **annual contest** open to the public with small entry fees and significant cash prizes. For the 2009 contest, the fees are \$5 for seven of the categories and \$10 for three novel categories. Each of the ten categories has a first prize of \$100, second of \$65, and third of \$35. Judging is done by qualified professionals, many of whom make suggestions on each entry. Rules for the contest are on the website and submissions are accepted during the months of October and November, 2009. Each year there are about four hundred entries from all over the world. For more information, go to <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/contest.html>

From **Robin Conley**: For those of you in the Fort Worth/Dallas area, I'll be in Fort Worth next month to give a little workshop. Drop me a line if you'd like further details, and let me know what you're writing!--your friendly neighborhood book doc (-: www.robynconley.com

From new member **Ingrid Briles**: On October 13, *Christmas Miracles*,

by Cecil Murphey and Marley Gibson, will be available for sale. One of her stories is found on pages 174 - 178.

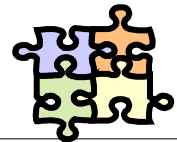
From **Harry Haines**: the publication date for *TEXAS PANIC* is now October. Here are the new dates for the book signings: Barnes & Noble, Sunday, November 8, 2 to 4 p.m.; Hastings on Georgia, Saturday, November 21, 4 to 6 p.m.

Katrina Kimble wrote a moving story about her father for *Amarillo Magazine*. Check it out when you have a chance, either online or find a free copy at several locations around town. *Amarillo Magazine* will now be available at the Buffalo Bookstore in Canyon as well.

Dee Keel has recently had stories chosen for two different anthologies.

There's a new article by **Janda Raker** on the *Amarillo Magazine* website, and there was an article about Harry Haines's book *Texas Panic* in the *Canyon News* recently.

Congratulations to **Travis Erwin**, who recently won agent Nathan Bransford's First Paragraph Contest! His first paragraph was based on the feed store chronicles that he used to blog about.



November Puzzler-Errant Apostrophe's

Correct or not? From *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves* and the *Carnegie Mellon Writer's Style Guide*

1. Sign on a School: Pupil's Entrance
2. Catalogue: Lands' End
3. Sign: Bob's Motors
4. Sign: Mens Toilets
5. Sign: Cyclist's Only
6. Motto: It need'nt be a pane!
7. Slogan: Recruitment At It's Best
8. Card: Your 21 today!
9. Ad: Reader's Offer
10. Sign: Customer toilet
11. Keats's poems
12. Achilles' heel
13. Elton John, a friend of the couple's, said last night...
14. It's a long way to Tipperary.
15. Archimedes' Screw
16. Jesus' disciples
17. x's and o's
18. alums's emails

Business Meeting Minutes

PPW Business Meeting Minutes for September 26, 2009

President Craig Keel called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. He opened the meeting by welcoming the visitors to our meeting. Craig brought to our attention that published members were welcome to sell their books at the meetings and encouraged them to do so with the understanding that the sellers were responsible for any set up and handling their own money. He also announced that Vicki Shoen will be chair for the Children's Contest. He also announced that Marianne Logan's husband Claude, has been diagnosed with ALS, and encouraged members to keep them in their prayers.

Jerome Doerrie, Program Chair, announced the program for the November meeting. The program will be breakout novelist Jack London, from Austin, and Delbert Trew.

Time was given to Nan Rinella to announce the C.S. Lewis foundation's Southwest Regional Retreat & Workshop. Members can contact Nan Rinella for more information ndrinella@gmail.com.

Time was also given to Harry Haines to announce that his book had not arrived on time and the scheduled book signings were postponed until

November.

Time was given to Marianne Logan, who also announced the High Plains Haiku group, and welcomed anyone who was interested.

Craig encouraged everyone to fill out round table reports and reminded them to submit any newsletter material to Bobette Doerrie by the 15th of October

The November Meeting was announced that it would be at the St. Stephens Methodist Church on Western, however that decision has been amended due to a conflict and will be at the **West campus of the St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 4415 Wesley Dr., off of 45th between Coulter and Soney.**

Jerome moved to adjourn, seconded by Carleta Fernades, and Craig Adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.



Officers (2009-2010)

President Craig Keel 806-433-6321 craig.keel@gmail.com

President Elect –Dr. Mike Bellah, 806-674-7023 mikebellah@hotmail.com

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Treasurer Joe Trent jdtrrent@nts-online.net

Publicity Suzanne Bogue 341-6995 ppwlunch@yahoo.com

Technology - Stefanie Pepin spikeslp@aol.com 676-8924

Puzzler Answers

The correct answers are 3, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 18 . The final word is considered to be *The Times Guide to English Style and Usage*-in England. In America, we have several, and I used Carnegie Mellon's *Writer's Style Guide*.

The title is incorrect.

Things to think about:

1, 2: one or more?

4, 5, 9 : possessive or plural?

6, 7, 8: An apostrophe shows an omitted letter.

It's=it is; its, your = possessive

You're = you are

13 Double possessive

11, 15, 16, 18: "In modern names ending in "s", but not sounding like "iz", the "s" is required after the apostrophe; Exceptions: Jesus and ancient names. Other Bible names ending in "s" need the 's.



Confusing Compounds-Bernice Simpson

Confusing Compounds by Bernice Simpson

Sometimes compound words should be called “confound” words. A word processing program's spell-checker will usually red-line incorrect run-on words, but what about other mistakes? Don't expect its help when you leave out a hyphen, put one in, or neglect to join two words to a compounded one.

1. Workday, workweek, working class, workingclass.
2. Otherwise, lengthwise, pennywise, weather-wise.
3. Windstorm, ice storm, waterspout, cold front, rainfall, weathercock, snow ball, weathervane.
4. Cash box, money-back, paper money, checkbook, moneymaker, catchpenny, money order, pocket money, moneywort.
5. Boat-rocker, free spirit, dogcatcher, dog handler, commander in chief, policy maker, fat cat, beachcomber, sleepyhead, pussycat, water rat, darkhorse, kill-joy, big boys, watchmaker, beach bum, catnapper, straight shooter, gadabout, beachmaster, double-dealer, freethinker, birth mother, redneck, blood brother, slimeball, fortuneteller, team leader, schoolteacher, free-marketeers, cattlemoman, blue blood, blue-bloods, Big

Brother, office boy, chief executive officer, step parents, godfather, dognapper, cat burglar, cave dweller, black belt.

6. Bird of peace, bird-dog, side horse, sealion, cold duck, hot-dog, jackrabbit, white elephant, workhorses, snake bite, bird dog, waterthrush, Black Angus, kitty-corner, water bug, bullpen, snake oil, dog days, sidewinder, tomcat, blacksnake, screech owl, tabby cat, KittyCat.

Answers:

1. All are correct except “workingclass.” “Working class” is a noun. Adjective: “working-class.”
2. All are correct except “pennywise.” No hyphen when “wise” acts as a suffix to help a word express “in the direction of” or “with regard to.” But “penny-wise” which means good penny management, is hyphenated. Similarly “weather-wise” refers to one who is “wise” in forecasting—weather or the outcome of political issues.

The following sentence is incorrect: “Weatherwise, last month was as balmy as May.” Most compound “weather” words are joined: windstorm, waterspout, rainfall, snowball, raindrop, snowflake, and even weatherman. But to confound us, correctly expressed as two words are “ice storm” and

“weather cock.”

3. Depending on the dictionary you use, all the “money” words are correct, but older word processing programs may disagree with “moneymaker” and “moneywort.” In Canada, the “moneywort” question is moot. There, the moneymort's common name is “creeping Jenny”--logically expressed in two words.
4. This list of people (yes, it lacks political correctness) is too long to make you strain. Although dictionaries differ in some cases, all are correct. But can you define the words? For example, what is the difference between a “dognapper” and “catnapper?” Why is “Big Brother” a proper noun, while “commander in chief” isn't? Are there cave dwellers in New York City?
5. All correct, including the verbs “hot-dog” (to perform stunts) and “bird-dog,” (to watch or follow carefully). Also correct is the noun, “bird dog”. “Snake oil” is correct, but if zapped by a snake, you have a snakebite. “Seal” plus “ion” is not a word. Perhaps that is why “sea” and “lion,” are separated. Three dictionaries refuse to recognize “kitty cat.” and especially not as a proper noun. But, KittyCat exists. See? (= ^ _ ^ =). (Ed. Note: KC is Bernice's pet.)

“Driven to Distraction by Deadlines” Carol Ellis, Friona

Diane Mowery of Friona is a member of the Pens and Pages writers’ group which passes around the duty of blog submissions for the website. Here is a blog that talks about a familiar source of stress for writers:

Driven To Distraction By Deadlines

By Grannie Carol

Oh Gee! Is it my turn to write the blog? Did I miss the deadline? We were just talking about meeting deadlines (or not) earlier this week as we gathered around the kitchen table at GrandMary’s place for our evening meeting of Pens & Pages.

That very descriptive word ‘deadline’ was born in the POW camps of the Civil War. Just a few feet inside the outer fence surrounding the camp, a line was drawn. When a prisoner

stepped a foot or even just a toe across that line, the guards patrolling the fence assumed this prisoner was making a break for it and he was immediately shot dead, no questions asked. Thus the dreaded DEAD LINE.

I don’t know at what point the term morphed into being the final moment in time when something must be completed. As writers we are now most familiar with it being the time after which a written document can no longer be accepted for publication. In the old newspaper days of melted lead type and linotype operators, it was when the backshop foreman in his ink blackened apron would stick his head through the door to the front office and yell, “Sorry kiddo! I had to kill that story you turned in late. Not enough room anyway.” So the story you had worked so hard to finish was just as dead as the fellow trying to escape the POW camp.

At Monday’s P & P meeting we pondered why our best writing is produced when we’re working against a deadline, hurrying to finish up in time. We had weeks to prepare but dawdled away the time, while the germ of an idea tippy-toed around in the back of our brains. Then finally with a burst of creativity, a lot of stress, a lot of coffee or something stronger---Voila! The masterpiece is born. Perhaps a psychiatrist could tell us why we do this to ourselves. Why?

(The author, Carol Ellis of Friona, is very well acquainted with deadlines. She was co-editor of the Friona Star and the Bovina Blade weekly newspapers for 42 years along with her husband Bill Ellis. The two are now happily retired and pursuing writing as a hobby. Some people just don’t give it up.)



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. Programs are an important part of our service to our members. We depend on dues for our programs and for the Frontiers in Writing Conference, held in mid-year.

See page 7 for additional levels of membership and information Mail membership forms to:

**Panhandle Professional Writers
PO Box 19303
Amarillo, Texas 79114**

From the editors, Bobette and Jerome Doerrie

ppwnewsletter@yahoo.com

The PPW Window is designed to serve the membership. We welcome submissions, news, updates, member concerns, announcements, your web sites, and blogs. This is an ideal publication for members who want the experience of being published and working with a friendly editor.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the meeting.

Remember, we are meeting at the West Campus of St. Stephen United Methodist Church for the November meeting. Please plan to stay for the question and answer session in the afternoon, as well as to network and share ideas.

From:

THE PPW WINDOW

c/o Bobette and Jerome Doerrie

13925 Co. Rd. B

Booker, TX 79005

To: