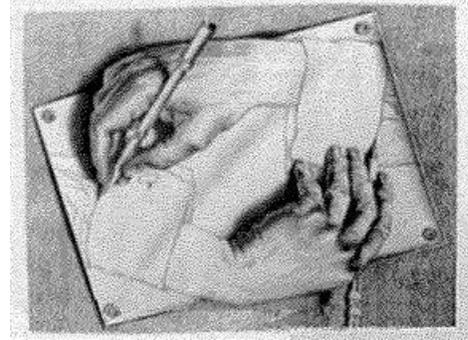


The Write Stuff

*Newsletter of the Columbia Chapter –
Missouri Writers' Guild*

*April 2013 Issue
Edited by – Judy Stock*



*“Never have I thought that I was the happy possessor of a ‘talent’;
My sole concern has been to save myself by work and faith.”*

— Jean Paul Sartre

The President's Message

How are we doing?

Believe it or not, the current group of CCMWG officers have completed almost half of their elected term. Things appear to be going smoothly. *Well Versed* has been judged and will be out in a few months. Talent is being assembled for our November writers' conference. We had an unusually large crowd at our March meeting. It was great!

You may have noticed that we tend to alternate months where we have a speaker with months where we have a short meeting and break out into critique sessions. I know some people prefer a speaker and some people have a great time at critique sessions. I encourage everyone to attend critique sessions. Even if you have nothing new, you can always drag out an old piece to present. You might get inspired.

Speaking of *Well Versed*, I want to congratulate those whose work will appear in the next issue, especially

those who are being published for the first time. I know how exciting that first publication can be. Keep writing and keep submitting your work.

Bring a writer friend to the next meeting!.

See you there.

Larry Allen
President — 2013

Officers of CCMWG 2013

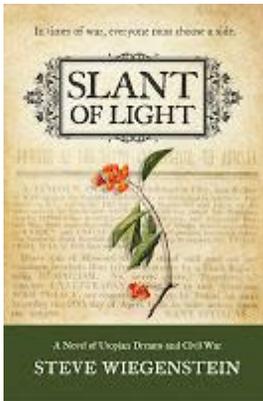
President	Larry Allen
Vice-President	Linda Fisher
Secretary	Sarah Briggs
Treasurer	Suzanne Pautler
Membership	Liz Davis
Administrative Assistant	Judy Stock
Member-at-Large	Lori Younker

MWG President Speaks at March meeting of CCMWG

The following is from Donna Volkenannt's blog. Thank you, Donna, for such detailed note-taking and for letting us use it in the newsletter. Her blog link is:
<http://donnasbookpub.blogspot.com>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013

Steve Wiegenstein Sheds Some Light on Writing Historical Fiction and Nonfiction



Earlier this month I attended a meeting of the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild. The guest speaker was college professor, journalist, and author Steve Wiegenstein, who spoke about writing historical fiction and nonfiction. Steve's historical fiction novel *Slant of Light*, published by Blank Slate Press, is set in the Missouri Ozarks during the Civil War.

Visitors to my blog know what a voracious note-taker I am, especially when I hear someone who knows what they're talking about give advice on writing. They also know how I like to share what I've learned with other writers, so here are a few notes I jotted down during Steve's talk.

* In historical fiction, details and specifics matter, but they do not matter as much as the story.

* Goals for writing historical nonfiction (which were shared with Steve by another historical novelist) are: Entertainment and Empathy, **not** education (although it may become a side effect).

* In historical nonfiction, focus on the human drama of the characters.

* Nonfiction – bound by facts.

* Fiction – author has some wiggle room. For example: in Steve's book he did not mess with dates of a Lincoln-Douglas debate, but he did alter some dates and events of some non-signal characters to make the narrative more dramatic and exciting.

* Purpose of historical nonfiction: to tell a STORY.

* Avoid "Research Rapture," when a writer can't bear not to share results of research.

* Keep in the compelling parts of research.

* Small details matter a lot (e.g. clothing - zippers or hooks in 19th century).

* EMPATHY separates rewarding historical fiction from throwaway books.

* He didn't put the emotion in the first draft, but in subsequent ones.

* Lesson Learned for the sequel:

-- Don't put your manuscript out for people to read too soon.

-- Let it lay for a couple weeks.

Hope my notes help shed some light on writing historical fiction and nonfiction. If you want to learn more, visit Steve Wiegenstein's blog at:

<http://stevewiegenstein.wordpress.com/>

P.S. In addition to all his other busy activities, Steve is the current President of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

Before his presentation at CCMWG he talked about the MWG conference, which will be Apr 26-28 in Maryland Heights. The MWG conference has a long list of speakers and topics of interest for writers. Unfortunately, a family event that weekend prevents me from attending the conference, although I might try to make it to the awards banquet on Saturday night. To learn more about the MWG conference, go to <http://www.missouriwritersguild.org/>

* * *

Upcoming Meeting

Sunday, April 7, 2012 — Critiques: poetry, prose

* * *

Successes

Von Pittman's short story, "Bad Day at Captain's Mast," appeared in the Spring, 2013 (Vol. 15, #1), of *The First Line*.

* * *

Carolyn Mulford's first in a series mystery, *Show Me the Murder* has been released. A book launch party was held March 17 at Columbia Books.

You can read the first chapter on <http://carolynmulford.com/mysteries>.

The second book, *Show Me the Deadly Deer*, will come out in December.

* * *

Donna Volkenannt's short story "The Promise of New Beginnings" is in *Cupid's Quiver* anthology. Her short story "Canned Beets" is in the *Saturday Writers Cuivre River Anthology 10th Anniversary Issue*. Her short story "Time to Get Your Jingle On" is in

Fifty Shades of Santa e-book from Welkin Press. Her recipe "Donna's Hot Glow Wine" and the story behind the recipe appear on My Panera Bread Co. website. She participated in "Chicken Soup for the Soul, Canned Soup for the Body" book signing at the Book House in St. Louis County. She interviewed Gloria Loring (aka Liz Chandler from *Days of Our Lives*) about her book "Coincidence is God's Way of Remaining Anonymous" on her blog. <http://donnasbookpub.blogspot.com>

* * *

Upcoming Events

Three CCMWG Members to Speak for Library Fundraiser in Boonville

"They Came from Missouri," a lecture series presented by HISTORICALLY YOURS columnist Liz Davis, will begin on April 11 as a fundraiser for The Boonville Library Project. The series will be held at Cooper's Oak Winery on Main Street in Boonville. All events start at 1:00 p.m., except Bob Priddy on June 20; this event will be at 7:00 pm

A free-will donation for the library building fund will be taken at the door.

There will be a drawing at the June 20 event. Tickets for the drawing are available at Cooper's Oak Winery. A door prize at each event will be 5 tickets for the drawing.

Liz Davis, a member of CCMWG, will kick off the series on April 11 with Missouri Writers—Twain, Wilder, and Truman.

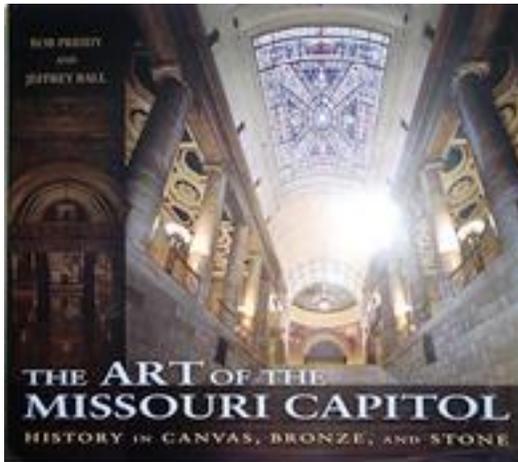
Mary Ann Snapp, author and CCMWG member

May 9 George C. Bingham

Mike Dickey, author and site administrator at Arrow Rock State Historic Site

June 6 Vincent Sappington
Marmaduke

Bob Priddy, author and news director of the
Missourinet
June 20 No specific topic yet



A drawing for autographed copy of
Priddy's book,
"The Art of the Missouri Capitol:
History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone"
By Bob Priddy and Jeffrey Ball
will be held at this presentation.

Larry Allen, CCMWG President and author
of "Do Come In" will open the second half of
the series.
July 11 Jesse James.

Speakers are not yet confirmed for Aug 8,
Sept 12, and Oct 10

A drawing for the second half (July-October)
will be held for an original work of Boonville
history donated by Herb Lachute, a local
artist.

For more information, email Liz Davis at
bdnlizzie@gmail.com

* * *

"Book Talks" at Boone County Museum and Galleries

Held at Boone County Museum & Galleries on
select Saturday mornings.

**At 9:30, Hot coffee and pastries by
The Flour Girls Bake Shop.**

TALKS BEGIN AT 10:00

Speaker for the Book Talk on April 6 will be
William Least Heat-Moon.

Here, There and Elsewhere and Blue
Highways (30th Anniversary Edition)

* * *

Local Classes

Spring Workshop with Lein Shory

It's not too late to sign up for this workshop.
Class will start next Monday, April 8th, at
7pm. It runs for eight weeks. You can still
register for what promises to be a terrific
class.

The Columbia Tribune recently did a profile
of Lein—check it out here:
http://www.columbiatribune.com/arts_life/ovation/lein-shory/article_63958442-61dc-11e2-8916-0012793a74ab.html#.URk98vKcySo

Email "Keija Parssinen"
quarryheightsworkshop@gmail.com
With questions or to register.

* * *

Contests

Ballot Press

Ballot Press is a book publisher that provides
a monthly contest along with interactions
with other writers.

Each month, a new winner is chosen for a
\$2,000 prize and a chance to be published
based on votes from readers and Ballot Press
judges.

This is a good deal for writers at a time mainstream publishers have lowered percentages to authors of eBooks while offering less marketing. Ballot Press contest winners who are chosen for publishing are provided professional editing and unique and aggressive marketing that includes selling through other online eBook retailers.

Ballot Press authors earn 50 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of their work. In addition, through our monthly contest, writers are provided critiques from other authors.

Go to ballotpress.com for contest rules and more information. If you have questions, please email me Josh Friedman at jfriedman@ballotpress.com.

The White Buffalo Literary Challenge

2013 Senior Poets Laureate contest

Guidelines can be found at this link:
<http://amykitchenerfdn.org/2013-rules/2013-spl-rules.html>

* * *

Christian Romance Anthologies Quilts of Joy Fiction Anthology Small Texas Town Romance Anthology

<http://www.lovelychristianromance.com/>

Christian Romance Anthologies. These stories can be 1000 to 3000 words. We pay \$10 per story accepted. You can submit to different anthologies. You will get a FREE e book copy of the anthology and be able to purchase a print copy at our publishing cost plus shipping.

We will be looking at contemporary, historical and suspense with a romantic twist stories. There is no deadline on these as of yet, because this will be an on going thing. We hope to put 5 to 10 stories per

anthology.

Send to lovelycromance@yahoo.com put Romance Anthology in the subject line.

For our Quilts of Joy Fiction Anthology, these need to be stories including the theme of a quilt. These can be romance or just a pleasant story.

Again 1000 to 3000 words you will get \$10 for the story if published, a FREE ebook copy and can purchase the book at our publisher's price plus shipping.

Send to lovelycromance@yahoo.com put Quilt Anthology in the subject line.

For Small Town Texas Romance Anthology stories should be 1000 to 3000 words set in a small town in Texas (real or pretty close to real) These can be contemporary or at least from the 50's and forward.

send to lovelycromance@yahoo.com put Texas town in the subject box.

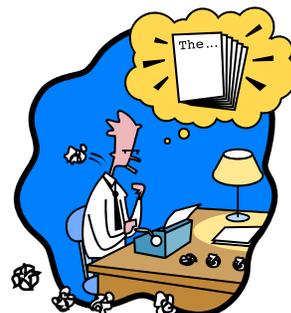
* * *

A member sent the following list from:

Justacontest.com

The Kite journal Annual Short Fiction Contest
Entry Fee: \$10
Deadline: June 15, 2013
<http://kitejournal.x10.mx/>
<http://kitejournal.x10.mx/contest>

* * *



An example of a bad case of writer's block.

Just for Fun

A Great Lesson on Stress!

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?' She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile.

Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an Ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up tomorrow.

Unknown

Points to Ponder

- * Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
- * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

- * Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

- * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
 - * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
 - * Never buy a car you can't push.
 - * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
 - * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
 - * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
 - * The second mouse gets the cheese.
 - * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 - * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
 - * Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
 - * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
 - * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
 - * Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY
- * Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate! (If it is, that alone makes it worth saving.)

Unknown

* * *

News—Wanted and Needed

The next issue of The Write Stuff is due out around July 1.

Anything that should go in the newsletter can be sent to j-stock@sbcglobal.net at any time. I have a folder to put it in. If you send news items as they occur, we won't be as apt to forget what happened when I send out a deadline notice.

Thanks to all of you who make my life easier.