

# Saturday Writers Newsletter

January • 2018

Saturday  
Writers



Writers Encouraging Writers Since 2002

A Chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild

A Nonprofit Organization / Corporation

www.saturdaywriters.org • info@saturdaywriters.org

Post Office Box 2093 • Saint Peters • Missouri • 63376

## 'Revision Strategies That Work' to be the Topic of Saturday Writers' Guest Speaker Karen Sargent on Saturday, January 27

One thing every author must learn is how to master revisions. Our January speaker, Karen



**Karen Sargent**

so effective, and too good to keep a secret!

Sargent, will be speaking about *The 3 Revision Strategies -- Take The Amateur Out Of Your Manuscript.*

You've revised and proofed and polished your manuscript. You're certain it's ready for publication. But is it? Karen will share the revision strategies a literary agent taught her to prepare her manuscript for publishers. So simple,

Award-winning author Karen Sargent creates characters whose imperfect faith collides with real-life conflicts, taking readers on a journey through grace and redemption to discover enduring hope. A romantic element is woven within each story. Her first novel, *Waiting for Butterflies*, debuted in April 2017 and was named the 2017 IAN Book of the Year.

In addition to writing inspirational novels, she blogs at *The MOM Journey*, where moms aren't perfect, and that's perfectly okay. Her writing has been featured by *Writer's Digest.com*, *Southern Writers* magazine, and *Guidepost's Angels on Earth* magazine, in addition to various writing and parenting blogs.

She is a member of the Missouri Writers' Guild, SEMO Writers' Guild, Women's Fiction Writers Association, and American Christian Fiction Writers. When she's not writing, Karen teaches high school and college English and resides in the beautiful Arcadia Valley with her husband and two daughters.

—Jeanne Felfe

## We welcome our officers for 2018

Saturday Writers owes its success to a great group of members who spend their personal time and efforts to take leadership positions, making all of this happen. Take time to thank them when you see them—and feel free to volunteer to help.

### 2018 Officers

President — Bradley D. Watson

Vice President — Nicki Jacobsmeyer

Secretary — Jeanne Felfe

Treasurer — Douglas Osgood

### Members of the

#### Board/Chair Positions

Membership Chair: Jeanne Felfe

Speaker/ Workshop Committee

Co-Chairs: Tom Klein & Jeanne Felfe

Hospitality Chair: Bob Weismiller

Assistants: Tom Klein & Diane How

Youth Outreach Chair: Sarah Angelton

Assistant Treasurer: Diane How

MWG Liaison: Jeanne Felfe

Publicity Chairs:

Rose Callahan / Phyllis Borgardt

Contest Chair: Tammy Lough

Wednesday Works-in-Progress Café:

Larry Duerbeck

Pre-Meeting Saturday Works-in-Progress Café:

Robert R.J. Sebacher

Members Online Critique: Jeanne Felfe

Children's/YA Author Critique:

Nicki Jacobsmeyer

Newsletter Editor: Wesley J. Ginther

Newsletter Editor Assistants:

Christine Roth and Susan Zahra

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Assistants: Rose Callahan / Diane How

Christmas Party Chair: Jennifer Hasheider

Social Media Chair - Heather Hartmann

## Saturday Writers Meeting and Events for Saturday, January 27, 2017

• 10:00-11:00 a.m.—Members Only: *Works-in-Progress Café*. Visitors are welcome to sit in and listen.

• 11:00-1:00 p.m.—*Regular Meeting*: Business Items then Guest Speaker

### Karen Sargent "Revision Strategies That Work"

Visitors Welcome: \$5.00 at the door  
Doors open at 10:45 a.m.

• 1:30 p.m. Lunch—Everyone invited to continue networking at a restaurant to be determined each month and announced at the general meeting.

• 2:30-5:45 p.m.—*Saturday Write-In*: Room 212, Spencer Road Library

## From the President's Desk...

### Goals for 2018

2018 is upon us. It's time, once again, to make and keep all those New Year's resolutions about meeting your writing goals.

For some, that is the goal of just sitting down and writing—writing a certain amount of words every day, finishing that book you've been working on, or entering every contest that we offer. For others, the goal might be to become a better writer of dialogue, description, or action. Your resolutions could include learning to plot better, trying different poetry forms, or finally trying to shop that manuscript.

Whatever your goals for the year, month, or day, Saturday Writers is here to help you reach your objective(s). That is our motto—"Writers encouraging writers." It is the reason we exist, and the 2018 goal of your leadership team. We hope to offer all of our membership the tools and information they need to become successful at their writing goals.

Our speakers will try to guide us into a better understanding of our craft, touching on as many aspects of writing as possible. We are, as always, open to any suggestions on speakers and subjects you'd like us to consider.

Our October workshops give us the chance to dive a little deeper into certain aspects or genres. Subjects and guest speakers will be announced when we get closer to that month.

Our monthly contests give writers a chance to hone their skills and step out of their comfort zone. Take them as an opportunity to try a story or poem that you wouldn't

normally gravitate toward. You may find that your poetic skills lend themselves to writing an amazing story. Or your mastery of dialogue may find a new outlet in a poem or memoir.

Critique groups provide members with the opportunity to polish those items they are working on. The more socially active in our group may prefer the in-person critiques, such as our pre-meeting Works-in-Progress (WIP) meetings or the Wednesday morning WIP meeting at Cupcake Amore. The more introverted may choose the email critique group. Novel critique and poetry critique are also available. All of these are designed to help members see their works through the eyes of other writers.

Open mic meetings will allow you to read your works aloud, hearing things you might have missed. Or you can have someone read your entry for you. Sometimes it just takes that little push of getting your work in front of someone to make you realize that your writing is worth pursuing.

Weekly write-ins at the library allow you to get away from everything and just write. Because that IS the ultimate goal we have for the year...to write.

So, whether you approach the year with aspirations to write more, write better, or become a published author, this year we hope Saturday Writers can help you reach those goals. Feel free to reach out to your leadership team at any time. We are here as fellow "Writers encouraging writers," and we want to hear from you.

—Brad Watson — 2018 President/Director



### Writing and Art Contest

As announced at the Christmas Party and through email, we have added an extraordinary contest this year. Working in conjunction with a local arts group that meets at the Arts Centre, we have been invited to participate in "Pen & Paint—A Collaboration Among Artists." This will be a multi-media event held at the St. Peters Arts Centre.

Our part? We have been asked to submit flash fiction (1000 words or less) and poems (50 lines or less) on any subject, to be judged for inclusion in the exhibition. Five entries from each genre will be selected (totaling ten works) to be read by the artists, who will then create works of art inspired by our words. The written word will then be displayed, along with any art inspired by it, in the Arts Centre in May.

To meet this schedule, we will require any flash fiction or poetry be submitted by the January meeting (January 27). We encourage electronic entries, emailed to [contest@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:contest@saturdaywriters.org), however, we will also accept hard copies brought to the meeting or snail-mailed to our post office box. (Address is on our website.)

This is a members-only contest, and the first entry from each member will be free, with a fee of \$5 for each additional entry, up to a total of three entries for the contest. Winners will be submitted to the arts group to inspire their members and will be included in the 2018 anthology.

There is no specific prompt or subject for these writings—however, you might keep in mind that the works are meant to inspire visual media.

Sometime in the second half of the year, we plan to reverse the situation, receiving some works of art from the artist group, which we will use to inspire works of literature. More about that when it gets closer.

### 2017 Anthology

Just to keep everyone informed, there have been a few delays in the production of the 2017 anthology, but know that we are hard at work on this. We plan to have a signing again this year when it is ready. We will keep everyone informed as we get closer to the publication.

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Children/YA Author Writing Group**

Hello 2018! A new year is filled with new possibilities. At *Saturday Writers Children/YA Author Critique Group* our goal is to encourage, support and challenge one another as we craft these stories for young minds.

If you write or want to learn more about board books, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, middle grade or YA books, this group is for YOU! We will also learn and talk about the industry and publishing world.

Our meetings will be held at Barnes & Noble Cafe, 320 Mid Rivers Center, St. Peters, Missouri 63376 on the following dates:

- Thursday, February 8th  
10:00 a.m. – Noon
- Thursday, February 22nd  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8th  
10:00 a.m. – Noon
- Thursday, March 22nd  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 12th  
10:00 a.m. – Noon
- Thursday, April 26th  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10th  
10:00 a.m. – Noon
- Thursday, May 24th  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Nicki Jacobsmeyer at [nickijacobsmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:nickijacobsmeyer@gmail.com). Complete information and guidelines for group can be found at <http://saturdaywriters.org/childrens-author-writing-group.html>.

## **Our Once-a-Month Works-in-Progress Café**

The monthly Works-in-Progress Café is an opportunity for active members to read their prose or poetry and receive feedback from fellow writers. Visitors are welcome to sit in and listen. See the Saturday Writers website for details about presenting your work.

## **Meet and Greet**

Friday, February 9th,  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
2865 Brewhouse  
Missouri Banquet Room  
2865 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
636-724-2025

## **Open Mic**

Thursday, March 15th,  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Mic begins at 7:00 p.m.  
At Rendezvous Café,  
217 S. Main St., O'Fallon.

A great opportunity to read your work in front of your fellow writers. Swallow that lump in your throat. Release that hidden performer. Share a few pages of prose or some lines of poetry.

## **Critique by Email**

Did you make a 2018 New Year's resolution to write more and grow as a writer? One of the best ways to hone your craft is to commit to submitting to contests. Jeanne Felfe made this commitment in both 2016 and 2017, entering all of the SW prose contests. In doing so, she forced herself to focus and meet a deadline—essential skills for a successful author. Both years resulted in between six and eight 1st, 2nd, 3rd place wins, or honorable mentions. She utilized the email critique group for almost all of those stories. Why? Because it's a great group of writers and because she could do it without ever leaving the comfort of her own home. Make 2018 the year you challenge yourself by joining the email critique group – just email Jeanne at [Jeanne.F@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:Jeanne.F@saturdaywriters.org) We eagerly provide an extra set of eyes for short stories, poem, essays, novel chapters, etc. Complete information and rules about this members-only service is on our website at <http://www.saturdaywriters.org/email-critique--members-only.html>

## **Poetry Symposium**

Where we meet to discuss poetry, read our work, receive suggestions for improvement (if solicited), stimulate and encourage our fellow writers. Free and open to the general public—adults only, presented by R.R.J. Sebacher and Bradley Bates. Under the auspices of Saturday Writers, a chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild, [www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org). At: St. Charles City-County Library, Spencer Road Branch, 427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, Missouri. Saturday, February 10th, at 11:00 a.m. in room 210.

## **Saturday Write-In**

Write-In: No Excuses

Saturdays are your days with “no excuse” for not writing. To make sure you have a place to write, we host a public “Write-ins” at the Spencer Road Library every Saturday from 2:30 to 5:45 in room 212. Join us in this relaxing atmosphere, surrounded by fellow lovers of the literary arts. We have a seat just for you. Bring your laptop, pad, and paper, or whatever tools you like to use, and take this opportunity to craft that work you always wanted to finish.

Electricity and chocolate will be furnished. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Wednesdays in O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café**

It's exciting to hear new writings from our Works-in-Progress members. Novels, poems, short stories, essays, and memoirs are discussed each Wednesday at Cupcake Amore on Hwy K in O'Fallon, MO, at eleven a.m. Saturday Writers members are free to join us for a two-hour session to improve your work or receive validation of ideas. Some of the discussions are very lively. Honesty and support for your work help to enhance the finished product. Join us.

# February

## SATURDAY WRITER EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café	1	2	3 Spencer Road Library Write-In
4	5	6	7 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café	8 Children/YA Author Writing Group	9 Meet and Greet	10 Poetry Symposium Spencer Road Library Write-In
11	12	13	14 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café	15	16	17 Spencer Road Library Write-In
18	19	20	21 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café	22 Children/YA Author Writing Group	23	24 Works-in-Progress Café General Meeting Spencer Road Library Write-In
25	26	27	28 O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café	1	2	3 Spencer Road Library Write-In

### Plan For These Future Events:

#### Quintessential Comedy by The Missouri Writers Guild

A Night of Comedy benefiting The Missouri Writers Guild. Tickets: \$12 in advance online @ [mwgcomedynight.brownpapertickets.com](http://mwgcomedynight.brownpapertickets.com). \$15 at the door. Sunday, February 18, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Quintessential Dining & Night Life Rooftop, 149 N. Main St., St. Charles, MO. 63304

#### Saturday Strikers:

Friday, April 20th,  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
St. Charles Lanes  
2187 1st Capitol Dr,  
St Charles, MO 63301  
(636) 949-0311



\$5.00 cover charge/wristbands = Receive \$1.00 shoe rental, games & food, drink specials!

#### Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference

May 20-24, 2018  
In the Blue Ridge Mountains at  
Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center  
near Asheville, North Carolina.  
[RidecrestConferenceCenter.org](http://RidecrestConferenceCenter.org)  
Reservations: 800-588-7222

**FEATURING:**

Angela Smith  
Jamie Fritz  
Nathan Orton  
Meredith Hopping  
Will O'Donnell  
Brian McDowell

# Quintessential Comedy

presents  
**A Night of Comedy**  
benefiting  
**The Missouri Writers Guild**

**WHERE?**  
Quintessential Dining & Night Life Rooftop Terrace  
149 N Main St,  
St Charles, MO 63301

**WHEN?**  
February 18th, 2018  
Sunday 7 - 9pm

**HOSTED BY:**

Shannon Yarbrough

Buy tickets online @ [mwgcomedynight.brownpapertickets.com](http://mwgcomedynight.brownpapertickets.com)  
Learn more about the MWG @ [missouriwritersguild.org](http://missouriwritersguild.org)

**TICKETS**  
\$12 in advance (link below)  
\$15 at the door

## Epitaph for Bill Spradley

Wise or foolish it is apropos  
By light of star gone nova – now at rest  
Never by our sun's immediate glow  
I see a friend I loved – if not well then best

—*R.R.J. Sebacker,  
SW Poet Laureate*

## Wondering

An unfamiliar door  
an unopened package  
an unmarked road  
a blind hall way  
into the darkness of a starless night  
Awake or Asleep?  
Wafting away into the abyss  
Of the unknown  
while those of us left behind ponder  
where you've gone  
rethinking our own mortality

—*Marcia Estep  
Wednesday Critique Group*

## A Woman Walks Into a Bar Inspired by Bill Spradley

The Rendezvous Café and Wine Bar always drew an exciting assortment of patrons: ladies chatting over brunch, comparing photos of children and grandchildren; card players laughing together as they whiled away the day; business associates meeting up for lunch to exchange ideas or, perhaps, cleverly disguised government secrets. But none of these groups piqued curiosity so much as the writers who, once a week, gathered to share their stories.

Every Tuesday morning they trickled in, hypnotized by the aroma of coffee beans. Ordering fancy drinks, they'd scurry to the back room, leaving behind the fascinating lives of real people in favor of those existing just in their minds, and known only in the words that tripped from their fingers onto the page.

Each week, for years, they offered their latest works to the group, the hours of anguish over imperfect descriptions and clumsy phrases, so they might receive the kind of criticism that rips at the soul and

*Continued on page 8—See Angleton*

## Bill Spradley: Our Friend Will Be Missed

On January 11, 2018, Saturday Writers lost one of its biggest supporters and best friends, Bill Spradley.

I first met Bill at a Saturday Writers Meet 'n' Greet. We sat at a round table, and it only took a few moments before he had launched into one of his anecdotes. No matter the subject, Bill always had a story. And he was masterful at weaving that tale.

If you have been a member of Saturday Writers more than a month or two, you have no doubt spent time with Bill. His smile and energy were amazing. He never met a stranger, and I doubt he ever had an enemy.

Open mics were always brighter for his contribution. His early stories seemed always to be about fast cars, women, and nights at the bar—so much so that we used to kid him about that. But he just wrote from his heart, touching on the things he loved and enjoyed. And he moved out from those stories into much deeper topics—yet always entertaining and enthralling.

Bill was unselfish with his gifts, always taking time to help others in their writing endeavors. He served for years as the leader of both Works-in-Progress meetings, guiding the group during their critique sessions. He was always willing to help me with anything we needed at Saturday Writers.

Bill's love of writing never waned. Fueled by his years traveling the world as a sailor in the Navy and an engineer for an Aerospace company, Bill took the people he'd met, and the situations that shaped him, and molded them into stories that moved everyone. Every tale was written so naturally—as if he was sitting across the table, talking to a friend. And I guess, in a way, he was.

After having won quite a few contests with Saturday Writers, those stories being published in their anthologies, he was picked up by a Leigh Michaels' publishing firm. Leigh put out two short story collections and had him busy working on his memoir and a book of poems.

Bill was a flame that burned bright, bringing light and warmth wherever he went. He touched every one of us with his friendliness and wit. But the blaze went out much too soon.

Bill, you will be missed by all of us who were fortunate enough to call you friend.

Rest well.

—*Brad Watson*





Nicki Jacobsmeyer

## What's the Big Idea?

Finding a critique group is one of the best things you can do for your writing. I would wager a guess that most writers would agree with this statement. There are times when we slave over the dialogue, setting or character arc, only to be blinded by the critique group's piercing red markings. Whiskey over a wound.

Then we sweep up our "little darlings" and tuck them away for safe keeping.

When it's our turn to share our critique, we aim for the most constructive, yet encouraging feedback. Start with what's working well and then share areas of concerns. That's ideal. But what about the critique that derails? Is our constructive criticism actually cruel criticism dressed up as an imposter?

A writing friend shared some insight with a Twitter post she read. "My writing professor said something about critiquing today that stuck with me: if you give a critique that results in a writer feeling like they never want to write again, it is you who have failed as a critiquer, because you've extinguished someone's desire to create. As a critiquer, your job is not 'make this piece of writing better' but to understand what the writer wants to achieve and help them achieve it." (Kitacity, Lark, @nahyutas, 1/8/18).

Agree? Disagree? Let's talk!

— Nicki Jacobsmeyer

## Got Writer's Block?

I write every day. I get up early, take care of the early morning tasks and about 8 a.m. I'm in front of my computer, ready to write. As I turn on the computer and see the white page of the word document, my mind will go blank to match the empty page.

If nothing flows, I pull up yesterday's material and start reading and rewriting. An idea will usually materialize. Still, if nothing drives me, I do the guarantee. I will open an empty document and start writing to my Aunt Doris. Let me explain.

My aunt is 96. She lives about two miles from the strip in Las Vegas. Her mailbox gets filled with few bills, many advertisements, but scarce letters from the family. So I made a pact with myself, several years ago. I would send her something every day of the week, something to find in her mailbox, something to read, something with a twist at the end.

I envision sitting with her, in the backyard next to the pool. She's sitting on her chaise lounge enjoying her cup of coffee. Attentive, she's expecting something good. I select something that happened the day before or something that happened to me as a child, and I begin to tell the story. The end must have a twist, so I go back and rewrite to plant the seed.

I now have seven subscribers to my snail mail blog.

—Wesley J. Ginther, Newsletter Editor

## A Conversation About Poe

"Today I'd like to talk about Poe," Larry stated.

"I had Poe in Hawaii....didn't care for it, very bland."

"Jim. I believe you're referring to poi. It's a food staple in Hawaii, and I agree it tastes terrible," Larry patiently explained. "but I'm talking about Poe."

Bob answered to clarify, "POE is an acronym in the military, which has many meanings, the most common being, Port of Entry."

"No argument there," agreed Larry, "but, that's not what we're talking about today."

"It's the poe people in the south, I knew a lot of them, very sad," SanDe interjected.

"Very true, being poor is sad. However, Poe is spelled and pronounced differently," Larry grimaced.

"Not in the south." SanDe challenged.

"Okay, but the definition is different," Larry continued. "Poe was a literary genius."

"I dated Poe's granddaughter when I lived in Bulgaria," Bill proudly stated. "She was a dancer."

"A dancer?" Larry questioned.

"Yes, her name was Paula, and she was a pole dancer." Bill smiled.



Jim Ladendecker

"So, Poe's granddaughter was named Paula and was a pole dancer?" Larry said, shaking his head.

Sherry asked, "Was she a poe dancer or pole dancer? It's important. The P should be uppercase if it's Poe."

"This discussion is running off the rails," Larry stated. "Can we get back to the topic at hand?"

"Was the Poe tato named after Poe?" Marcia asked. "Hmm—potato soup sounds good for lunch, yes a nice hearty potato soup."

"No, Marcia, the Poe I'm speaking about had nothing to do with vegetables," Larry calmly stated.

—Jim Ladendecker



### Editor's Story Prompt

A sailboat, skippered by a young lawyer traveling with a teenage girl, is too far from the harbor docks to return before nightfall. The dockhand, deciding he has at least two hours before being needed, leaves for dinner and drinks at a harbor pub, where he hooks up with his newest hottie. He never returns to the dock. In the morning, the harbormaster scans the boats in their slips, notices one missing and not in the harbor or bay, and calls to report the missing sailboat to the Coast Guard.

## Christine's Comments



As a writer just moving to a new city, it has been intimidating to find my place. I felt like I should be recording every portion of my eventful and quick move but that was lost in a rush to get from Charleston, WV to St. Louis, MO.

As the dust settled over the summer move, I finally took a breath and stepped back. What was I going to do now? I went from a full-time college professor to a part-time adjunct. My husband and I agreed that I should be writing full time, but even that seemed like a daunting task.

My first step was to find a writing group. I began doing research. I found several in Missouri, to my delight, and began researching them. I finally settled on Saturday Writers and geared up for my first meeting.

I was surprised when I walked in. From the friendly greetings of Jeanne to the eagerness in allowing me to participate, not just sit on the sidelines, confirmed my hope in joining this group. My first meeting allowed me to hear business as well as a workshop on book distribution. I met Heather and engaged in a lively discussion about the silent auction. Within days, I was connected with Wes and began helping with the newsletter.

And now I'm writing a column.

So let me introduce myself. I'm Christine Roth. I am a West Virginia writer finding her way in a much bigger city. I am a creative non-fiction writer who is trying to finish her first book. I am an avid reader.

I am also a proud member of Saturday Writers. Thank you for embracing me. I look forward to writing for you every month.

—Christine Roth  
[Christinearoth@hotmail.com](mailto:Christinearoth@hotmail.com)

## Footnotes...on Steroids

The purpose\* of a footnote\*\* can be baffling. An asterisk\*\*\* is the typical indicator used to refer\*\*\*\* the reader to a footnote. Each footnote is meant to enhance\*\*\*\*\* the reader's experience. Webster dictionary describes a footnote as an ancillary\*\*\*\*\* piece of information printed at the bottom of a page.

\* Purpose - This is a reason or explanation, not to be confused with a Porpoise\*.

\*\* Footnote - Contrary to popular belief this is not a note written on a foot or with a foot. It's a note to give the reader additional information to supplement\*\* the story.



Larry Duerbeck

\*\*\* Asterisks are used to highlight a footnote because sometimes life gives us lemons.

\*\*\*\* Refer transfers the reader's attention to the footnote. A reefer\*\*\* transfers the reader's mind in many ways. Don't get the two confused.

\*\*\*\*\* These notes are not meant to put you in-a-trance but enhance or expand you're knowledge of the subject.

\*\*\*\*\* Ancillary - Additional information providing a tangential\*\*\*\* comment.

\* Porpoise is a cute sea animal.

\*\* Supplement is similar to a vitamin supplement but for the story.

\*\*\* Reefer – additional names include dube, joint, MaryJane, grass, pot and weed. Also, a term used to describe a refrigerated truck. There is cold comfort for this.

\*\*\*\* Tangential means a minor comment, not a comment from a coal miner. It's a related\* comment but of less importance.

\* Related but not a relative, like cousin Susie.

— Larry Duerbeck

## Fall Workshops Presented Valuable Material, Information, and Networking Opportunities

Our October Workshops provided our membership valuable material, information and allowed attendees the opportunity to network with new writers and authors. On Tuesday, October 3, Liz Schulte spoke on "Authors and Social Media." Christina Gant, on Wednesday, October 11, discussed "Memoir Writing." The "Poetry" workshop session was hosted by Kelley Allen on Thursday, October 19. Our final October workshop



Anthony Clark

was "Story Crafting" directed by Anthony Clark, on Thursday, October 26.

Every October, Saturday Writers feature multiple workshops of writing genres to provide encouragement, writing techniques, publishing sources and networking opportunities. Our workshops in 2018 will be announced in September and available for registration.

*Sarah Angleton—continued from page 8*

leaves a person exposed, weak, vulnerable. Those not privy to this peculiar type of club may not have understood it, but the process, though painful, meant everything to the writers.

Then one day the woman walked in. She was of medium build with limp brown hair and bright blue eyes that betrayed intelligence few would, or should, question. Whether this new writer was a producer of worthwhile work, or whether she could face the criticism soon to come her way, had yet to be determined, but like the others, she would be given a chance to prove herself.

The brunette sized up the half dozen or so members of the group, colored ink pens poised, and sitting segregated around the table as though they'd been assigned seats, men on the far end, women closest to the doorway. The newcomer decided to break with tradition and walked to the far end of the table, settling next to the one they called Bill the Younger, a portly gray-haired gentleman with a well-trimmed beard that often made women look twice. He was ready, as always with a joke and a smile, to listen to anyone willing to spin a tale.

This entrance of a young stranger would serve as a spark for one of his own short stories, though he would make her taller, curvier, and blonder. The clever eyes he'd keep.

Much to his surprise, the newcomer read a prepared story for the group, a pretentious literary short with an unreliable, internally conflicted narrator who became sentimentally self-aware. All climax and no gratifying release, it demanded comment from the men in the

room who shared pats on the back and a few good-natured chuckles.

Undaunted, the new writer returned the next week with a piece more to their liking, one with a less subtle plot and a satisfying conclusion. She read it with a wink and a knowing smile for Bill the Younger and the others.

That's how she became one of them, a writer among peers, hidden away in the back room where curious things are kept, and where they would come to know one another, sharing together one of the most intimate aspects of their lives: their imaginations.

Over the next few years, the collection of writers would shift and change, as some moved away or went on to new things. Bill the Younger was among them, but the writer with the limp brown hair and clever blue eyes would never fail to seek him out when their paths managed to cross. It was always the same. They would share jokes, exchange stories, delight each in the creativity of the other. She was not the same woman she had been when she'd first walked into the Rendezvous.

Her experiences with Bill the Younger and the other writers had challenged her and shaped her into a more talented version of herself, anxious to explore the farthest corners of her inventive mind. What joy she felt at sharing her works with those who pushed her, those shining lights who had guided the development of her craft with unfailing encouragement, enthusiasm, and support. Such fires would never fade, even after Bill the Younger had walked out of the bar.

—Sarah Angleton

## Time to Renew Your Membership

1. Complete a Membership Form to update your information, if desired (see page 11).

2. Create a Bio for yourself and send it along with two optional photographs to Heather.h@saturdaywriters.org.

3. Membership Dues are renewable in January of each year.

If you are a current member and you are Renewing your Membership BEFORE March 1st your dues are \$25.00. If you are a current member and you are renewing your membership AFTER March 1st your dues are \$30.00.

## Advantages of Becoming a Member of Saturday Writers

- Network with our 100-plus writer-members
- Attend regular monthly meetings with guest speakers
- Participate in our members-only discussion groups & events
- Enjoy discounted fees to our workshops
- Enjoy discounted fees to Missouri Writers' Guild events
- Enjoy discounted fees for our writing contests

## How to Join:

Joining Saturday Writers is quite simple.

All that is required is a love of writing and an annual membership fee of \$30. Publishing credits are not required.

Not ready to join? Visit us for \$5.00 per regular meeting and deduct those fees from your membership costs when you decide to join.

We host special youth events from time to time. Otherwise, our group is intended for writers 18 years or older. (16 + with special approval.)

Contact us at: Jeanne.F@saturdaywriters.org.

## Clichés are Cliché for a Reason!

The New Year, while not officially a leap year, leaped at us like a tiger pouncing on its prey. I, for one, have no idea where 2017 went. One minute January, that greatest of all carnival barkers, beckoned me forward for a great adventure. The next minute, it was December

and Dad Time was making me go home—my heart still racing from the roller coaster, disappointed I whiffed at the ball throw, but carrying a small consolation prize from the duck shooting booth. Now a new hawk, 2018, spews his spiel, promising more twists and turns than a James Patterson novel.

But 2017 wasn't done with me yet. It poked me in the ribs—quite hard.

Why do you ask?

Because I had forgotten something of such moment when I entered 2017 that it issued a travel advisory for entry into 2018—don't forget the power of written goals.

But January and goals is so cliché. It's the time of renewal (queue dripping sarcasm). Lose weight. Get fit. Write a book. Get that promotion. Read more. Craft more. Blah, blah, blah.

Who cares? What's so magical about January? The only thing being renewed is my tax obligation. Certainly not nature—have you stepped outside recently? And goals? People buy more gym memberships the week of New Year's than any other time. January 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the gym is

packed tighter than a Buffalo snowball. By the end of the second week its back to just the regulars.

Yup.

So why write about goals? Because clichés are clichés for a reason. *Tried and true* works. The truth is that the magic isn't the

goal. It's the written word. Write that goal down, and you'll be much more likely to stick to it.

And now back to me and the poke in the ribs from 2017.

There was a time many years ago when I practiced written goal-setting faithfully. And I placed reminders all over the place. Quotes taped to the bathroom mirror

next to a goal card. Goal cards front and center in my daily planner. Goal cards everywhere.

Somewhere in the hecticness of life, I forgot this lesson and paid for it by having exactly nothing to show for a year's effort. I was reminded of this while having breakfast with a good friend. I complimented him on his accomplishments, and he commented on setting goals.

Bingo.

That's what was so off in 2017.

No written goals.

So this year, cliché or not, I have established goals—written, measurable goals that are attainable but will require effort, dedication, and willpower. I have writing production goals, writing result goals, and some personal

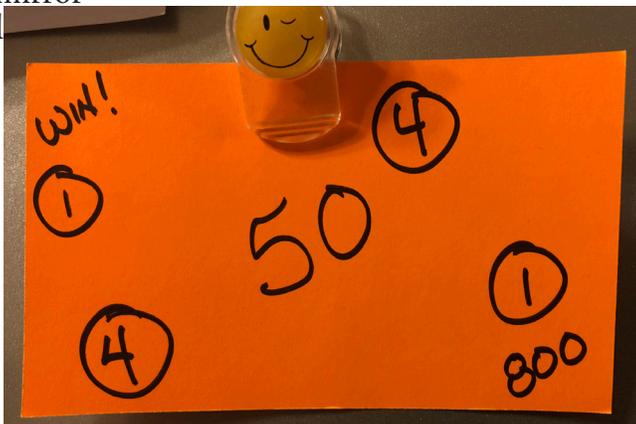
goals, too. Then I built a goal board—a cork board loaded with colored index cards, each denoting a goal. Sprinkled around them are motivational quotes and encouragements.

Planted around my house (bathroom mirror, dresser mirror, refrigerator, and work office) are single orange index cards with a series of numbers written on them. Each number represents a numerical goal.

For example, one of the 4's on the card (see photo) represents the number of short stories I plan to submit for publication consideration to anthologies, magazines, etc. Will any of them get published? Who knows? But they for sure won't if I don't submit. And every time I look at that index card, whether at work, while shaving, changing my clothes, or grabbing a snack, I'll be reminded of that and several other goals.



*Doug is an enrolled agent with nineteen years of experience assisting clients with their tax-related questions and problems.*



And if I put all of this effort into these goals, but still fail to nail them, I will still likely have accomplished something of merit to advance my writing career. And, as famously said by President Teddy Roosevelt, at least I will have failed trying.

What are your goals for 2018? Have you written them down? Happy Writing!

—Douglas Osgood,  
EA Writer and Tax Expert

# Christmas Holiday Party Celebrates Saturday Writers 2017 Successes



The Chapter ended 2017 with a festive and fun Holiday Party, Saturday, December 7, at the Saint Peter's Cultural Arts Center. Santa arrived with door prizes galore and the elves brought quite a spread of food. Past President Jennifer Hasheider coordinated with members, industry professionals, and businesses for donations that made the raffle baskets and silent auction a hit.



## Saturday Writers Membership Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

I am  A New Member  A Current Member updating information

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (much of our communication will be through this email address)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership:

- New Membership \$30.00 - Paid before September 30, renewable January 1st at the rate of \$25.00
- New Membership \$30.00 - Paid on or after September 30, will be considered current the following year
- Renewal Membership \$25.00 - Paid before March 1st
- Renewal Membership \$30.00 - Paid after March 1st

### Type of Payment

- I am mailing a check to: Saturday Writers, PO Box 2093, St. Peters, MO 63376
- I will use PayPal on this website to pay my Membership Fees (this option does not guarantee discounted renewal dues if paid after March 1st)
- I will bring cash or check with me to our next meeting (this option does not guarantee discounted renewal dues if paid after March 1st)

### Are you a current member of the Missouri Writers Guild?

- Yes, I am a member of MWG  No, I am not a member of MWG
- I am not a member, but you can email me information about joining MWG

### Area(s) of writing interest, genre(s)

### Do you have any publishing credits you would like to share with us?

### What are you hoping Saturday Writers can do for you?

Send completed form with payment to: Saturday Writers, PO Box 2093, St. Peters, Missouri, 63376  
www.saturdaywriters.org For questions email Rose Callahan at: rose.c@saturdaywriters.org

## Revenge: A Sweet & Tasty Treat

Maynard Abernathy crouched in the shadows behind the closed bedroom door and shushed the impatient guests. As he waited for Gwen to arrive home from work on Halloween, he tapped his toes to the beat of Michael Jackson's, Thriller. He tried to remember the last time he felt so giddy. Never, he concluded.



Tammy Lough

At last, he heard the front door open and shut with a heavy thud before the lock snapped on the deadbolt, and the security chain slid across its metal track. Keys. Put your keys away, Gwen. He heard her hang them on the lucky horseshoe nail. Atta girl, but sorry, this is not your lucky day. He stifled a snicker. The need to feed neared a painful level. Click, Click, Click. The familiar sound of her heeled shoes disclosed her location. Three more steps...now two...one last step.

Maynard clenched the doorknob tighter when he felt her turning it from the other side.

"What the hell?" Gwen said from the hallway.

He held tighter and felt her weight pressing into the door.

She turned harder and pressed firmer.

He held with a mighty grip and then sprung his hands-free, and the door burst open. "Surprise! Happy Birthday!" he shouted before grabbing her by the wrist to pull her inside and greet her ravenous, zombie guests.

"I have a question, Gwen. How

do you think it felt when your new boyfriend fired a black talon bullet into my heart? Do you think it felt good when it exploded? When it propelled blades of metal through my chest and out my back?" His fist followed the path he described, and then he pulled it back out and touched a moist, sticky finger to her lips.

The zombies grabbed the shocked woman under the arms and by the ankles. A gnarly hand covered her mouth with thick tape as they readied to feast upon the birthday girl.

"Birthday...deathday... birthday...deathday," they chanted.

Maynard clasped his hands together. "Eternity, Gwen. I always said we would be together throughout eternity." He snickered. "I failed to mention we would be eternally dead!"

He forked a bite of his love's flesh and ever-so-slowly drew his lips from the utensil. His eye's closed as he savored her tasty treats. He bent to whisper the final words her earthly body would ever hear:

"Baby, you taste jis' like chicken!" — Tammy Lough

*Tammy Lough is on medical leave. She wrote this article last year for our halloween edition. Due to space we were unable to use it. We hope you enjoy it at this time.*

—Newsletter Editor

## Advice on Simultaneous Submissions

You should send out simultaneous submissions. There is no reason you should be expected to wait on an agent before you send your work to other agents. It's simply not fair. What's the worst that could happen? More than one agent is interested in your work? Call me crazy and unethical, but I am willing to bet this is a problem any writer without representation would welcome.

—Phil Lang  
literary agent, Reece Halsey North

## Saturday Writers Officers

### President:

Bradley D. Watson

brad.w@saturdaywriters.org

### Vice President:

Nicki Jacobsmeyer

nickijacobsmeyer@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Jeanne Felfe

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### Treasurer:

Douglas Osgood

doug.o@saturdaywriters.org

## Members of the Board/Chair Positions

Membership Chair: Jeanne Felfe

Speaker/ Workshop Committee

Co-Chairs: Tom Klein & Jeanne Felfe

Hospitality Chair: Bob Weismiller

Assistants: Tom Klein & Diane How

Youth Outreach Chair: Sarah Angelton

Assistant Treasurer: Diane How

MWG Liaison: Jeanne Felfe

Publicity Chairs:

Rose Callahan / Phyllis Borgardt

Contest Chair: Tammy Lough

Wednesday Works-in-Progress Café:

Larry Duerbeck

Pre-Meeting Saturday Works-in-Progress

Café: Robert R.J. Sebacher

Members Online Critique: Jeanne Felfe

Children's/YA Author Critique:

Nicki Jacobsmeyer

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Christine Roth and Susan Zahra

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Christmas Party Chair: Jennifer Hasheider

Social Media Chair - Heather Hartmann

Our meetings are held at the Cultural Arts Centre located inside St. Peters City Hall on Mexico Road. St. Peters City Hall Use the WEST ENTRANCE Cultural Arts Centre entrance 1 St. Peters Centre Drive, St. Peters, Missouri 63376