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The Window

Official Newsletter of Panhandle Professional Writers
d/b/a Texas High Plains Writers



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

November 2016

A Bi-Monthly

Newsletter

From the President

Kimberly Black

What is NaNoWriMo and should I try it?

November is National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo for short. It is a month-long challenge for writers around the world to pour out their heart, soul, and latest novel idea onto paper. For 30 days, each participant is tasked with writing 1,667 words per day to reach a final goal of 50,000 words—enough for a barebones novel.

Why would I want to do such a crazy thing?

First, it's a fantastic way to get that idea you've kicked around for years out onto paper, finally, in rough draft form. On November 30, your manuscript will not be publisher-ready. In fact, it might stink, but it will be ready for your first round of editing.

Second, you won't believe how quickly writing 1,700 words a day can become a habit. If you establish a "writing time" in your daily schedule for one month, you'll find it can easily become a permanent fixture in your routine. Skipping a day may even start to frustrate you or make you miss your characters.

Third, do it just because you can. It's like a mountain that's begging to be climbed. It's that bucket-list item that has eluded you so far. It's that, "Oh yeah, last month I wrote a novel," conversation starter for all the holiday parties you must attend.

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born during NaNoWriMo. It's mentally stimulating. It's good therapy for kicking off the holidays.

To officially sign up to participate, just visit nanowrimo.org and create a profile for yourself and your novel. It's free. Check out the online forums and ask your writer friends if they'll do it, too. The online camaraderie can be very encouraging and will keep you accountable on your word count.

What can you win when you reach 50,000 words? Technically, there are no prizes beyond a printable certificate and virtual WINNER badge that you can post to your Facebook page. But, you are rewarded with the satisfaction of knowing you completed a writing goal. You have the framework of a great story that may become the next Great American Novel. You never know!

What happens if you don't hit 50,000 words by November 30? Nothing. Nobody will call you up and BOO you over the phone. Your photo won't be posted to a LOSER board. Your mother and your dog will still love you. Christmas will still come. And, you will have tried. Maybe your idea isn't quite a 50,000-word novel yet. Whatever you take away from the experience can benefit you if you let it.

If you're a novelist, or want to become one, you probably have those idea seeds in your brain right now. Why not try to plant them this month and see what blossoms?

November Program

Jan Sikes

Due to personal issues, Robyn Conley had to cancel her appearance at this month's meeting. Jan Sikes has graciously agreed to fill in.

Jan will be presenting "How Many Ways Can You Say _____?" Do you know there are over 115 ways to describe the way a person walks in addition to "He walked up the hill"?

Why should you limit yourself to using the same words over and over? The same is true with voice descriptions and many other modes of communication we must rely on in telling a story.

In her presentation, Jan will explore various active verbs that can take the place of the passive and draw better pictures in a reader's mind of what the characters are



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In her talk, she'll show techniques to prevent your writing from becoming mundane and stale. Using the same phrases and descriptions are ruts we all fall into because we're too rushed, too tired, or often—let's face it—too lazy. Bring pen and paper for the interactive exercises. Jan plans to present this program in a fun and upbeat way using the Emotion Thesaurus as well as other reference material. Handouts will accompany her talk.

The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Expression will be referred to frequently during this presentation as well as other resources authors may find helpful. A PowerPoint presentation will be used in conjunction with printed material.

Jan is a multi-published and an award-winning author of an exciting series about her life with her country singer/performer husband, Rick Sikes. She's a member of the Texas Association of Authors and is heavily involved with the Texas Musicians Museum in Irving. In addition to writing books, Jan writes songs, poetry, short stories, and is currently working on a novel with paranormal elements

Bylaws

Result of Vote to Amend Bylaws

The proposed amendments to the Bylaws passed.

New Location for 2017 Programs

OASIS Amarillo

Our 2017 bi-monthly meetings/programs will be held at the OASIS church located at 8201 Canyon Drive in Amarillo which is on the east side of I-27 and north of the 335 Loop/Hollywood Road.

Local Author Needed

Brandi Arbuthnot, Teacher

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teacher for Canyon ISD. I also am responsible for setting up writing rallies for City View Elementary school. We are having a writing rally on December 2nd to get our kids (kindergarten through 4th grade) pumped up about writing. I am looking for a local author that would be willing, out of their kindness of their heart, to come share for 10 minutes to future world changers. Please if you know anyone who may be interested email me back or give me a call at 806-928-7864. Thank you for your time and for helping us to empower our young writers.

The Bragging Box

James Quiggle and Louva A. Hunt

Congrats to James for his latest published book, the the 16th volume in his the Private Commentary series.

A Private Commentary on the Bible: Matthew's Gospel is a thoroughly exegetical and explanatory commentary explaining the meaning and significance of Matthew's Gospel. The exposition is based on the author's literal translation of the Greek text. The book has a high view of Scripture as God's inerrant Word, and uses grammatical-historical principles to interpret the text. Section by section and verse by verse the commentary explains who Jesus was and what he did. The author writes for any Christian who wants to continue their study of the Bible, for Bible study leaders and teachers, Bible college students, and local church Pastors.

Matthew's Gospel may be purchased at the following retailers:

<https://wwwcreatespace.com/6604512> (Print)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01M0KUWLX> (Kindle & Print)

<http://bn.com/w/-/1124695300?ean=2940157071189> (B&N Nook)

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/668205> (epub, other formats)

Congratulations to Louva! Her book, *Little Weena's Flowers*, has been published. It has been reviewed by The Clarendon Enterprise, www.ClarendonLive.com, and is available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

Traveling with Janda

Janda Raker

Below is a link to my latest article, with lots of photos, titled "Touring Venice, Italy, on a Tight Budget." You



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has gone to all entertainment, with previous articles no longer available. I had written for it for a couple of years, and now I've had to choose another site, HubPages.com, and I will need to rewrite my best articles and repost them. I believe this article turned out better than it was, and I hope you'll enjoy it. If so, please share it with your friends. If you notice anything that you think could be improved on, please let me know. And if you think of another destination that you'd like me to write about, send me your suggestion. If this article is effective, you better start packing!

<http://hub.me/akJmT>



Membership

Molly McNight

Pay your 2017 membership dues before January 31 and pay only \$30 instead of \$36.

If you have books you would like to sell at the meetings, let me know and I'll see that you have a place to show your books. We want to highlight your accomplishments, so let me know what they are and we will announce them at the meeting..

We are as much about sharing as we are about learning.

Upcoming Programs

The plans for the January 21 meeting is a workshop on social media. Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Amazon, Goodreads, and Mailchimp are some of the things that will be discussed, how to use them, and how they can help you market your writing.

[Bethany Claire](#) is coming back to speak at our March 18 meeting. She was a fantastic speaker, so if you missed her last time, don't miss her in March.

Author [Karen Witemeyer](#) out of Abilene, Texas, is our May 20 speaker.

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Contest

As you know, at each bi-monthly meeting/program, we try to raise funds to support our annual youth writing contest. If you have any new or gently used items (not garage sale or thrift store type items) that you could donate, please bring them to any of our bi-monthly meetings.

Member Writing Contest

The last writing contest prompt for 2016 and its postmark deadline is:

- "He turned the key in the lock and opened the door. To his horror, he saw ..."
November's contest has a January 3 postmark deadline.

Your entries can be a short story of any genre or a poem. For details go to our [website](#).

Linked Up

Links to Members' Websites

If you want to be included in the Linked Up section of our newsletter, email us your information.

Jennifer Archer

Watch Jennifer's book trailer for her teen fiction, *The Shadow Girl*, on her [website](#).
You can also subscribe to her blog there.

Kim Black

[Subscribe](#) to Kim Black's email list and receive a free story. What kind of writer is Kim? Find out by going to her [website](#) and reading what she writes.

Natalie Bright

Learn about Natalie and the books she's written by visiting her [website](#).

Linda Broday

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Marcy McKay

Learn more about Marcy McKay and what she writes [here](#).

Ryan McSwain

You can get a [signed copy](#) of Ryan's book *Monsters All The Way Down* on his [website](#). His newest book *Four Color Bleed* is coming out in November. You can join his mailing list and get access to free short stories by going to his "[All My Stuff](#)" page.

Phyliss Miranda

Discovery Phyliss's books, what her favorite links are, and check out her new contest [here](#).

Janda Raker

Check out Janda's travel and outdoor recreation articles and photos on her [website](#). There you'll find sample photos and links to all of her articles. Subscribe and you'll be notified whenever a new article is posted.

Dianne Sagan

Dianne's [website](#) has a free newsletter to announce new books, recipes, contests, and giveaways. You can also find her [Book Club-in-a-Box](#) on her website. Dianne's other [website](#) has a membership section and offers a free newsletter.

Vicki Schoen

Would you like to include Vicki in your [book discussion group](#)? You can sign up for Vicki's [mailing list](#) and you can read her [blog](#).

Current Board Members

President: Kimberly Black - pennie@steepdog.com

President-Elect: vacant

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Karen Gammage - kgamm@earthlink.net

Technical Support: Mike Akins - mike7166@gmail.com

Membership: Molly McKnight - mmc222@ymail.com

Hospitality: Carol Smith - carolsnowsmith@gmail.com

Publicity and Newsletter: Janet Taylor - janetcoopertaylor@gmail.com

Conferences and Workshops: vacant

Programs: Linda Broday - lindabroday@aol.com

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To participate in the critique session, you do not need to have a piece to be critiqued. The sessions begin at 1 p.m. and, depending on the number of those who have a story or a poem needing to be critiqued, can last up to a couple of hours. We suggest that your material not exceed approximately 750 to 1,000 words. Please bring at about five copies of your story or poem. If possible, it is helpful if you bring a short synopsis of your story so those critiquing have some background. We ask that you format your manuscript as follows:

1. Use white 8.5 by 11-inch paper.
2. Double space using either Times New Roman 12 or similar font.
3. In the header, give your last name, a slash (/), and a short title on the left and the page number on the right (at the top of each page).
4. Use one-inch margins.
5. Use one side of the paper only.
6. If possible, use line numbering.
7. Note: Your synopsis may be single-spaced.

Each person, in turn, will read 1,000 words or less (15 to 20 minutes) or the author will read their own writing, based on preference; then, the group facilitator will ask for discussion from the group. While each person is reading, we urge all other participants to offer written comments on the manuscript. All copies will be returned to each author.

The goal of every critique is: "How can we make it better."

Meetings are held on the third Saturday in odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The public and Texas High Plains Writers members are invited to hear speakers on selected writing or related topics.

You may order a box lunch from our Hospitality Director between 9:30 and 10:15 or bring a sack lunch. Box lunches are \$10.

Unless otherwise specified, meeting location is at Amarillo Senior Citizens Center 1217 S. Tyler Amarillo, Texas (Note: We must occasionally switch our meeting location, or we may need to change the date to avoid conflicts. So, please check the address and date for each meeting.)

Our meetings/programs follow this schedule:

Check-In and Meet & Greet
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Program/Presentation
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Box Lunch
12:15 - 1 p.m.

Critique Session
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Need to contact us?
You can write to us at:
Texas High Plains Writers
P. O. Box 19303
Amarillo, TX 79114
or email us at:
panhandlewriters@gmail.com

Past Presidents

1921-1922	Laura V. Hamner	Amarillo
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1926	Mary Miller Beard	Amarillo
1927	Mrs. T. V. Reeves	Canyon
1928	Nell Nash (W. K.) Chandler	Amarillo
1929-1930	Carolyn Deason Timmons	Amarillo
1931	Laura V. Hamner	Amarillo
1932	Lorraine (Ray) Carr	Amarillo
1933	Annie Dyer Nunn	Amarillo
1934-1935	Mildred J. (J. W.) Cheney	Amarillo
1936-1937	Mrs. H. G. Baucom	Amarillo
1938-1939	Mable Christy (S. E.) Fish	Amarillo
1940	Ossie (C. C.) Wilson	Canadian
1941	Laura V. Hamner	Amarillo
1942	Mildred J. Cheney	Amarillo
1943	Alma McGowan Thompson	Amarillo
1944	Maude Smith Rorex	
1945-1946	Dorothy Ogden Hastings	Amarillo
1947	Christie Fish	Amarillo
1948	Minnie Timms Harmer	Amarillo
1949	Stacy Hasner Hall	Amarillo
1950	Laura V. Hamner	Amarillo
1951	Laurene (H. W.) Chinn	Borger
1952	Cleo Tom (Cammie) Terry	Skellytown
1953-1954	Evelyn Pierce (Otis) Nace	Pampa
1955-1956	Alice (Dr. Howard) Puckett	Amarillo
1957-1958	Mildred Crabtree Speer	Amarillo
1959-1960	Lorene Locke	Amarillo
1961-1962	Bessie (Elmer) Patterson	Hereford
1963-1964	Lena (Ralph) Rittenhouse	Borger
1965-1966	Vivian (E. W.) Robinson	Amarillo
1967	Barbara (Don) Hayes	Pampa
1968-1969	Bernice (Skeet) Gregory	Pampa
1970-1971	Anita (J. E.) Low	Canyon
1972-1973	Pauline Durrett Robertson	Amarillo
1974-1975	Ann Brown	Canyon
1976	Helen Witt	Groom
1977-1978	Carolyn Ballew	Amarillo
1979	Nova Blair	Amarillo
1980-1981	Janie Burgess	Stinnett
1982	Delores Spencer	Amarillo
1983-1984	Ellen Richardson	Amarillo
1985-1986	Lavern Hays	Canyon
1987-1988	Doris Meredith	Amarillo
1989-1990	DeWanna Pace	Amarillo
1990-1991	Sharon Drain	Amarillo
1992-1993	Frances Clegg-Ferris	Amarillo
1994-1995	Nan Kemp	Amarillo
1996-1997	Nan Rinella	Amarillo
1998-1999	Deborah Elliot-Upton	Amarillo
1999-2000	Cliff Heffner	Amarillo
2000-2001	Terry Burns	Amarillo
2001-2002	Terry Burns	Amarillo
2002-2003	Kim Campbell	Amarillo
2003-2004	Ronnie Cox	Claude
2004-2005	Diane Neal	Amarillo
2005-2006	Barbara Propst	Amarillo
2006-2007	Jarrold Neal	Channing
2007-2008	Ernesto Guzman/Barbara Propst	Amarillo
2008-2009	Barbara Propst	Amarillo
2009-2010	Rory Craig Keel	Canyon
2010-2011	Mike Bellah	Amarillo
2011-2012	Kenja Purkey	Amarillo
2012-2013	Matt Sherley	Amarillo
2013-2014	Harry Haines	Canyon

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