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The Window

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



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

January 2019

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January Meeting

Saturday, January 19, 2019.

9:30 Registration 10:00 Meeting

Board member meeting to follow

Image may contain: 1 person, smiling, text

Finishing your book is a huge accomplishment, but the job isn't finished. Whether you work with a publisher or self-publish, authors are expected to work as hard promoting their books as they do writing them. In our next program, Barbara Brannon will walk us through the steps of marketing our books. Join us to learn how to reach a larger audience and improve your sales.

Renew Your Membership

From now until January 31, **SAVE** and pay only \$30

THPW members attend monthly meetings **FREE**. Go to our website and renew online. Click on the **DONATIONS, DUES AND CONTEST FEES** button. Or send your check to the mailing address listed below.

Meetings are open to the public and visitors may attend for a small fee.

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Why go to church? You already know the golden rule and to forgive and be thankful. Why gather together to hear the same old spiel? It's a lot of trouble, after all.

One of the best explanations I've heard comes from the meaning of the word worship. It's from Old English meaning to shape what is worthy. What a beautiful concept. We all need an occasional nudge in the right direction, shaping each other to bring out our best, to encourage and uplift that which is worthy of nurturing in one another.

That's what we do at THPW club meetings. We shape what is worthy in each of us. We help each other be the best writer we can be, gaining knowledge, encouragement and ideas from one another. We meet new people, make new friends and hear unique perspectives. A few words from a colleague and suddenly the writer's block you've been fighting evaporates. A light bulb goes off, a brainstorm occurs and ideas rain out, anxious to pour onto the page of your latest novel.

Another reason for attending THPW meetings is strength in numbers. What you or I cannot dream of doing alone, we, as a team can accomplish. We can bring talented speakers to our meetings. We can develop a website with news and information to share with others. We can create critique groups and workshops and give referrals and find sources to help us all.

I will explain several more upcoming opportunities and benefits of membership at our January meeting, but for now, here are a few teasers. We will soon have a members' only section on our website. Inside that section we will have a member directory to help you find your peers, and we will post a film library of past guest presentations so you can review those you missed, or want to study again. Finally, we will create a page on our site to advertise our members who are willing to serve as speakers for other clubs and events. There is the possibility of linking member's names to their websites or to their books on line.

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valuable. And I look forward to seeing each of you at our meetings, and learning and growing from the experience. Together we can shape what is worthy in each of us. Happy 2019.

2019 Programs

January 19

Barbara Brannon, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, will speak on marketing and book promotion.

March 16

Dee Burks will speak about developing a freelance writing career and writing nonfiction.

April 12-14 2019 ~ Canadian Retreat

2nd Annual Writers Workshop in Canadian. THPW will be co-sponsoring the event again this year with the Canadian Arts Alliance. Save the Date!

May 11

Celebrating Amarillo Arts at the Sunset Art Center in conjunction with The Crouch Foundation. We'll post more information as plans for this event are finalized on how you can participate.

Resolutions Schmesolutions!

~ by Kristine (KR) Brorman

I'm not a big fan of "new year new me". It's much more satisfying to get out there and see people giving life their best everyday. Sometimes falling flat on our collective butts, laughing, crying and jumping up to get back in the game.

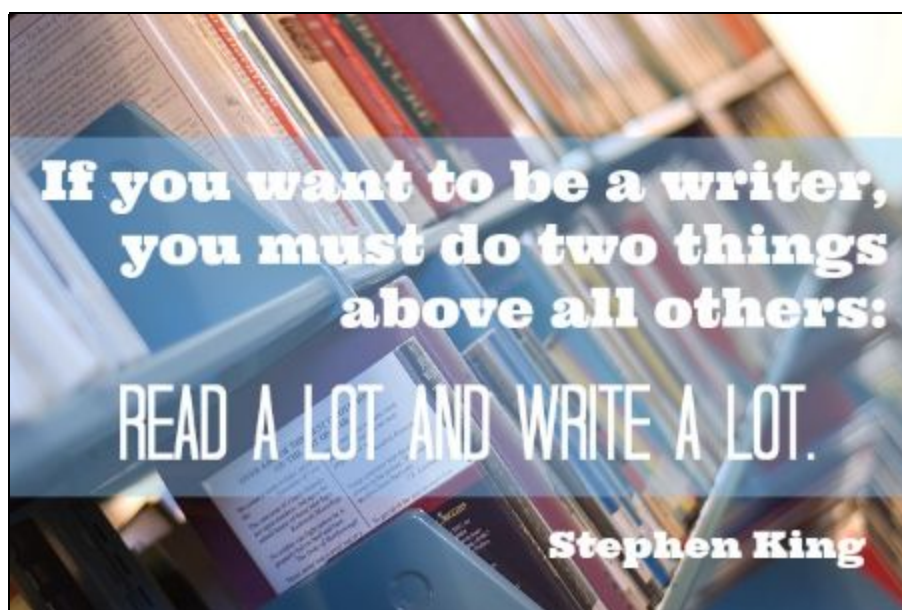
However, I love lists! To Dos, Honey Dos, grocery, Top Forty, Best Dressed, Highest Paid...Best Seller anyone? There is something insanely satisfying about drawing a line through or checking off a completed task. Maybe that's just me.

Now, I'm sure...SURE we all have a TBR (To Be Read) pile. Right? "It's the leaning tower of literature!" I'm sure we've all seen a dozen or more 2019 Reading

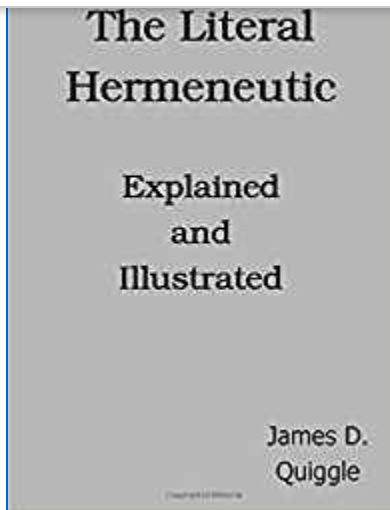
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I shot out of the blocks last year with the Popsugar Challenge and added a few "To Dos" to my list. You can read about that [here](#). Suffice to say, I stumbled a bit. She says as the proverbial tower sways. Rather than attempt the ENTIRE reading list or pile for 2019, I'm issuing a challenge to myself and to all of us at Texas High Plains Writers -

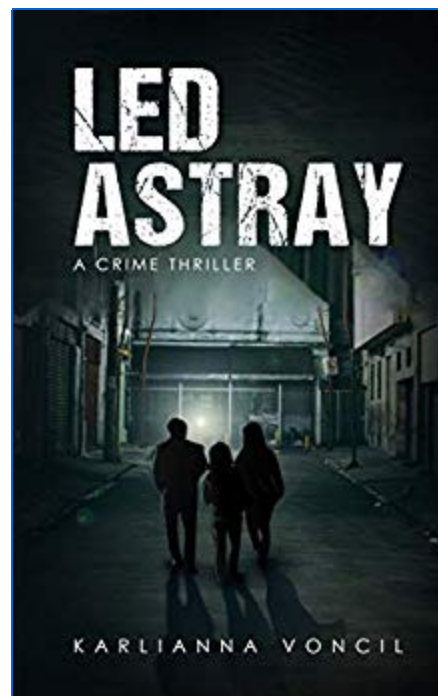
- Read US - The Window and BUZZ notes have links and information on member's new releases. We know we are going to buying books anyway, support each other.
- Review! Review! Review! It takes five minutes. Be kind and be honest. It's OK to say "I don't like strong language, but this book is full of action and romance." "YA isn't my normal genre, but the dialogue is hilarious." "I bought this for my niece and she loves the story of rescue horses."
- Share. In your newsletters, social media, local reader groups, church, community organizations. Word of mouth is the best publicity.
- Write. Write. Write.
- Read. Read. Read.



Two New Titles to Start the New Year by James D. Quiggle & Karlianna Voncil

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Books on Hermeneutics are full of theory but short on practice. The Literal Hermeneutic gives both: an Explanation section and an Illustration section. In the Explanation section, ten chapters present and discuss the principles and precepts of the literal hermeneutic. Biblical texts are used throughout to demonstrate the use of the literal hermeneutic to discover meaning and significance. In the Illustration section, twenty-five essays demonstrate the principles and precepts of the literal hermeneutic in action by interpreting common and controversial Bible texts. Each essay highlights one or more of the six analysis methods of the literal hermeneutic. A closing appendix provides a convenient list of the principles and precepts of the literal hermeneutic.



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YOUR FAMILY?

After sixteen-year-old Emily Burns turns up murdered, Sweet Valley detectives Martinez and van Daan must pin their hopes on thirteen-year-old Daisy Young, the only living soul who could have possibly witnessed the horrifying crime. But as the story of Daisy's life spills out, the interview transforms into something darker and more tragic than either detective is equipped to handle.

Abandoned by her mother in a poor Sweet Valley neighborhood, Daisy falls in with a troupe of street-smart teens who offer her both the family and freedom she desperately craves. Their leader is Avia, a mysterious older teen who teaches Daisy both to survive and about the importance of family loyalty.

But when tragedy strikes and sends Avia down the deadly path of revenge, Daisy must prove her loyalty in one truly unforgettable act.

This twisted coming-of-age story questions the role that family, friends, and extreme poverty play in the lives of the youngest and most vulnerable members of society.

Fans of *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *Swamplandia!* by Karen Russell, *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers, and *Picture Me Gone* by Meg Rosoff will love this book.

This book is for anybody who likes reading:

- Coming-of-age stories
- Stories about rebellion, poverty, flawed mentors, and revenge
- Crime thrillers
- Young adult thrillers
- Revenge thrillers
- Murder mysteries

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As participants in the Amarillo Area Foundation's #ThePanhandleGives #GivingTuesday, Texas High Plains Writers received \$415.86 in initial contributions!!! Because we raised over \$250 our \$75 registration fee was returned.

But wait! There's more! We will also receive additional funds from the Amarillo Area Foundation based on a percentage designated for THPW from the total raised during the #ThePanhandleGives - #GivingTuesday campaign once the total funds have been calculated.

These contributions are earmarked for our 2020 Centennial Event. We continue to accept contributions to help with this celebration. Thank you to all who gave during the campaign and continue to support THPW.



It's not too late to win a Kindle PaperWhite!

See Janet Taylor at the Registration desk in January to purchases Tickets.

The drawing will be held on January 19 after the program.

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I hope everyone had a blessed and safe Christmas. It's exciting to be stepping into 2019 as your THPW editor. Natalie Bright has cut a wonderful trail to follow and I am eternally grateful for her guidance and encouragement as we go forward.

Keep sending in BUZZ Notes and content for The Window eNewsletter. Never hesitate to shoot me an email or reach out on social media.

Write on,
KRB



Critique Session Guidelines

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.

Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. There is no fee for members of Texas High Plains Writers to attend our regular bi-monthly meetings. A \$10 fee may apply to nonmembers.

(Note: We must occasionally

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.

Lunch On Your Own

12:15 - 1 p.m.

Critique Session, if Announced

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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avoid conflicts. So, please check the address and date for each meeting.)

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Byline and credited articles represent the views of the authors. Publication neither implies approval of the opinion or the accuracy of the facts stated. We welcome submission, news, member announcements, and any information that might be of interest to the writing community. We will happily promote new releases and book signing events for THPW members.

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