

March 2024

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

The Window



From the Desk of the President



Hello, Fellow Story-Shapers,

I hope this message finds you immersed in the joy of creation, riding high on the waves of inspiration. Let's talk more about the thrilling journey of discovering our authorial voices, a journey that happens to be the theme of this year!

#thankyoukarenbenckenstein

Isn't finding our voices like embarking on a literary treasure hunt, navigating the twists and turns of our imaginations to unveil that distinct blend of tone, style, and storytelling that's uniquely ours? It's akin to capturing the very essence of the soul on paper, isn't it?

In this quest, that joy is amplified when shared with our fellow wordsmiths in our author communities. These creative companions are more than just friends; they're mirrors reflecting facets of our voices we might have overlooked in this dance of inspiration and growth. They

serve as reminders that our voices not only resonate in solitude but also harmonize with others.

And then there are critique partners, those invaluable co-pilots on this writing journey. Their feedback isn't just constructive—it's a beacon of light through the maze of self-doubt, helping us carve out the true contours of our voices. Embrace their feedback as a gift wrapped in honesty, a tool for refining your unique expression.

Finally, there are in-person meetings—the sacred gatherings where the magic happens. They're not just about swapping ideas, but about the tangible connection with kindred spirits who share our passion. The shared laughter, the nods of understanding, the unspoken camaraderie—a celebration of voices, a symphony of storytellers...and snacks.

So, dear writers, as we navigate the paths to our authorial identity, relish the moments of introspection, savor the camaraderie of our writing community, and welcome the wisdom of critique partners. Attend our in-person gatherings whenever you can; they're the crucibles where our voices are shaped and polished.

May your pen dance freely, and may you discover the symphony of your author's voice in the collective harmony of shared creativity.

Happy writing,

Kristine Brorman

*I installed the new updates for Grammarly with Word extension this week and allowed it to suggest rewording/rewriting for clarity and tone on this piece. I accepted some suggestions and dismissed others. I've been a long-time user, especially for grammar, punctuation, and spelling. I don't know how much my "author voice" was affected, but I feel more confident in the clarity of my ideas without sacrificing the heart and soul of the letter.

****The Publicity Director edited some elements of punctuation, grammar, and flow.**



Membership with the Texas High Plains Writers not only gains you access to networking with local industry professionals such as other writers, editors, publishers, and agents, but also opportunities for publication in the annual anthology, a platform for selling and advertising your work, education from writing experts, and access to member-suggested resources. All for the low price of \$40 in annual dues or \$20 for students.

Pay Dues

March
Guest Lecture



Tim Lewis

To Zig or To Zag?

*Creating from the Crooked
Road*

Since I'll be speaking to THPW members with such a broad scope of creativity, my topic is about creating art through one's own experience. Using personal (and humorous) examples, I'll discuss how a creative career takes courage, dedication, and is anything but linear. I'll also say a bit about my current published novels, what agents and editors really want, a few tips, and take questions.

Mar 16, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FirstBank Southwest Tower Edward
Davis Room 9th Floor 600 S. Tyler
St.

Find Out More

Upcoming Programs

- **May** — 2024 Speed Networking for Critique Partners
- **September** — 2024 Mini-Conference

Cost of Attendance

Members — Free!

Non-Members — \$10

Invited Guests — Free for first visit!

Meetings Schedule

Board of Directors Meeting

8:45 - 9:30 a.m.

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. - 11:15 a.m.

Critique Session

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Your Board of Directors is working diligently to bring great programs that meet the needs and desires of our members. Please let us know if you have any program ideas or requests. We always welcome input from our members!

News

Announcing 2024 Mini-Conference

Save the third Saturday in September on your calendars! We will be hosting a mini-conference that will prepare our writers for attending larger writing conferences. Details coming soon, so watch this space!

Expanded Anthology Word Count

We're expanding our submission word-count limit to 6,500! Now you can submit longer pieces or multiple short pieces that add up to 6,500 words max. If submitted separately, each piece will require a \$10 fee for members.

You also have the opportunity to include a professional headshot with your bio! Headshots and bios deadline to be set for after the September mini-conference. Remember, the manuscript submission

deadline is July 31, so scroll down for a reminder of this year's anthology theme. And get to writing!

Pardon Our Mess

We're updating our website! It's a long process for just a couple of volunteers, so please bear with us. Currently, new features include:

- No more member login to access resources and media
- A form for turning in anthology submissions
- A calendar of upcoming events
- A tab to access our merchandise retailer
- A link to our 2024 anthology purchase site

There's more to come, so be on the lookout!

Critique Sessions at Every Meeting

Bring 500 words of writing you want critiqued to every meeting for an hour-long opportunity to break out into feedback sessions with your fellow writers after the program. Gain insight, improve your craft, and maybe even form a critique partnership or group in 2024!

Bring Your Suggestions

We want to hear from you! Drop your suggestions in the drop box, available at every meeting. Can't make it? Scroll down to give us your feedback!

Share the Buzz

We want your stories! Tell us what you've got going on in writing, publishing, contests, and events by filling out our Buzz Notes form. We'll feature you here in our next newsletter or in a special missive!

Share



BUZZ from Kim Black



In November, I signed a contract with WordWise Media out of California and am now represented by Steven Hutson, literary agent.

[Find Out More](#)

BUZZ from Scaramouche aka Daryl Stephens

I have recently published my anthology entitled *A Treasure Trove of My Precious Prose*. It is available as an e-book on KDP and paperback on Amazon. This is my first book, but I have many more I will be publishing before long. I have over 60 years of terrific writing in my arsenal! I hope to see you soon. Hopefully, we will be getting out of the deep freeze again someday. I plan on hibernating and publishing my books this winter. I hope I can make 2024 a profitable one for me!



[Find Out More](#)

Reminders



Serve on the Board

We're still looking for an Events and Workshops Director to finish a one-year term in 2024!

Consider serving in 2025 as President-Elect, Secretary, Programs Director, Publicity Director, or Membership Director.

Serve on a Committee

We need our members to serve on fundraising, events, workshops, and nominating committees!

Ask a board member how you can help.

Sell Books at Meetings

Bring your books to sell at our bi-monthly meetings!

Find new readership in your fellow members.

Contact the Board

2025 Anthology Theme



How Time Flows

Haven't you ever wanted to see your work in print? Of course you have.

Every year, Texas High Plains Writers accepts short stories and poems for publication in our themed anthology. Get out your writing pen and submit before the deadline to see your words published online and in print! You keep all your rights, receive publication accolades, and your submission helps raise money to support local writers. Win!

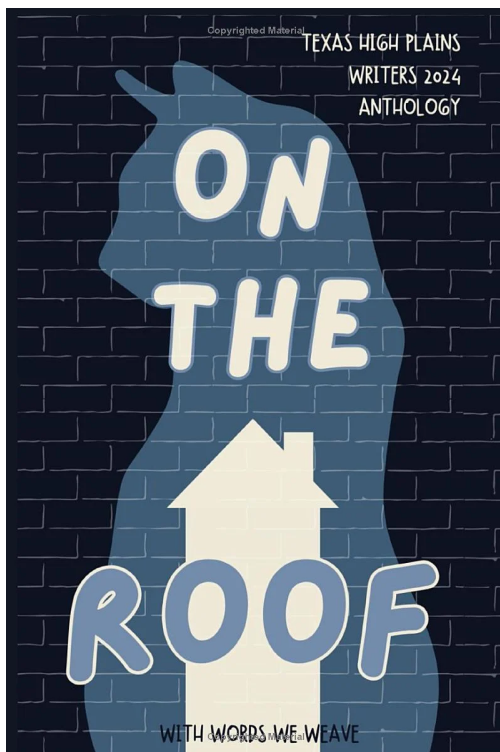
Current members pay just \$10 per submission! Non-members who pay \$50 for the first submission and \$10 for additional pieces receive membership for the rest of the year.

Check out this year's anthology submission rules, submit your piece, and pay your fee(s). Hurry! Go!

[Rules](#)

[Submit](#)

2024 Anthology



On the Roof

Getting a jump on your New Year's reading challenge? Check out our latest anthology! Available in paperback and digital.

The stories these walls could tell have nothing on those collected by roofs. In With Words We Weave: On the Roof, members of the Texas High Plains Writers invite you upward—to the roof, to the world, to the sky.

\$10

Your purchases are donated directly to the organization and go toward educating and supporting local writers!



If you couldn't make it to our last meeting, you missed out on the fun and laughter and weirdness of hanging out with other writers. But! You don't have to miss the program itself. Check out our recording of the latest business meeting and program!



Thank you to Mike Akins for your dedication to keeping us in recordings for the education of those who come after us.

Watch More

Hey. We miss you.

If you're signed up for our newsletter but haven't made it to a program in a while, we'd love to see you again. Got a particular reason why? Please let us know below. We'd love to hear from you so we can make our organization a welcoming place for all writers and related industries!

In the meantime, be sure to follow us on socials so we can still be together in spirit.



Feedback? Feedback.

Help us improve our organization by submitting your suggestions for programs, events, and improvements!

I Have a Suggestion

Donations Appreciated

Our organization would be nowhere without generous folks like you who believe in the importance of supporting local writers. We are a charitable organization, so all proceeds pay for education and opportunities for our members. Thank you!



Donate



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