

The Window - THPW Newsletter

Texas High Plains Writers <info@texashighplainswriters.com>

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The Window

Official eNewsletter of Texas High Plains Writers

May 2023

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Letter From The President

Hello Writers

While sheltering from our soggy May, I hope you've filled in the Critique Partner Speed Networking event questions and are ready for this Saturday. Be sure to bring some of your writing. Up to 500 words.

Finding critique partners can be a challenge. We're hoping this will help. You don't have to write the same genre. Writing is writing, no matter to subject.

Once you find partners, your group can set your own rules on word/time limit, manner of presentation, times and days to meet, and so forth. But first, you need a partner. Get those questions completed before the meeting on the 20th, if possible.

Remember, we'll be downtown at the Edward Davis Conference Room, 9th floor of the Chase building, 600S. Tyler.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. – Arthur Ashe

Our organization is run by volunteers, and we need you. Our members are skilled and resourceful and are necessary to fill board positions.

We need 2-3 volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Your task will be to contact members to find nominees to fill positions before the September meeting.

Per our bylaws, officers serve two (2) year terms except for the offices of President and

President-Elect, whose terms are one (1) year each. After one year, the President-Elect becomes the President, thus making it a 2-year total commitment. The rest of the officers have staggered terms so that only half the offices are up for election each year.

This year, board positions available will be President-elect, Treasurer, Hospitality, Technology, Events, and Workshops.

Which one are you interested in?

Donna Rosson

President

****Please Note Location Change****

Edward Davis Room, 9th Floor Chase Tower

600 S. Tyler, Amarillo, Texas 79101

****Critique Pages****

There will be an opportunity to break out into critique groups after the Speed Networking.

1. 500 word sample
2. 5-10 copies for critique
3. Times Roman 12pt or other READABLE size/font
4. Make it as clean as possible.

You do NOT have to bring pages to participate in the groups.

AC Announces "Winners" of Writing Contest

On Thursday, February 9, the Amarillo College "Office of Community Enrichment" announces the winners of *The First Novelist Award*, writing contest for American writers who had not previously published a book-length fiction manuscript.

The winning story, *The Thieves of Dushara*, a novel by Mile Akins of Amarillo, is about the Hindu festival in India. Dushara, translated literally "ten days," is noted for its camel races which are featured in the novel.

Second place went to Costa Rica author Grover Halter for his novel *The Blood Mother*.

Third place was awarded to Stephen High of Lubbock for his story *Souls on Board*.

The contest was staged to encourage unpublished fiction writers. First prize was \$500, second \$100, and third \$50.

Judges for the contest were noted Amarillo authors Janda Raker and Vicki Schoen. "It was a difficult task to pick a winner," said Raker, "because there were so many good stories." Schoen agreed, "Anyone of the best six or seven entries could have easily been chosen as the winner."

The contest was an outgrowth of a class offered in the fall semester of 2022, "Writing the Popular American Novel," taught by Harry Haines. Contest entries, while mostly from the Texas Panhandle, came from as far away as Costa Rica.

Contest Opportunity

The May - June round of the **Letter Review Prize for Short Stories, Flash Fiction, and Poetry** is now open, and closes on June 30th 11:59 pm ET.

Details of the Prize here: <https://letterreview.com/information/>

With Words We Weave 2024... Deadline July 30

Our Theme....

"_____ is on the roof."

Any thing, on any roof, at any time, any place, any genre as long as it's up there. We hope this theme/prompt is a fun, creative, even lighthearted break from the

often overwhelming seriousness that inspired previous themes.

See [THPW website for updated submission guidelines.](#)

Theme Inspiration

A man left his cat with his brother while he went on vacation for a week. When he came back, he called his brother to see when he could pick the cat up. The brother hesitated, then said, "I'm so sorry, but while you were away, the cat died."

The man was very upset and yelled, "You know, you could have broken the news to me better than that. When I called today, you could have said he was on the roof and wouldn't come down. Then when I called the next day, you could have said that he had fallen off and the vet was working on patching him up. Then when I called the third day, you could have said he had passed away."

The brother thought about it and apologized.

"So how's Mom?" asked the man.

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"She's on the roof and won't come down."

THPW 2023 Calendar

- **January** -Speed Networking for Authors - Critique Partner Match-up
- **March** - Writing Workshop-Building Characters & Worlds The Grab You - presented by TwylaBeth Lambert & Sarah Terentiev
- **May** - **Speed Networking for Authors - Do-over**
- **July** - **Poetry (pending)**
- **September** - **TBA**

- **November - TBA**

Your Board 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.

From the Editor's Desk

****The Ethical Question of AI**

"AI" no longer means what it once did. For most of my life, "AI" meant Artificial Insemination. The oldest cases of -- let's call it "human-assisted" fertilization happened in the 1700s. The parent method of reproductive AI used today was developed in Russia in 1922. As technology outpaced the masses' rudimentary scientific understanding and emotional objectivity, debate raged, ranging from a disturbance of the natural divine processes to promoting eugenics.

The practice is now widely used in agriculture and conservation efforts, and in assisting parents who would not otherwise have the opportunity to conceive. Yet, some still denounce the technology as immoral or a threat to breed purity.

This tangent into history/husbandry/fertility parallels with the "new kid" in town, Artificial Intelligence. We see quite a bit of hand-wringing, debate, and decrying technology that is HERE! Creatives and legislators warn of the dangers of computers replacing the human element.

Some have taken a side and dug in. Others are waiting to see and learn all we can.

For *me*, I use a calculator and accounting software. For writing, I employ Grammarly, Pro-writing Aid, and Hemingway at various stages, all of which suggest alternative text, and 75% of the time, the suggestion distorts the intention of the original, and I have to rewrite the sentence or paragraph better.

Ultimately, the human element, the heart of our writing, cannot be replaced or replicated. The world needs our stories, and the world doesn't care if we chisel them in stone, write them on a Big Chief, or ask a computer to write a story about a fireman, a veterinarian, and a cat. (yes, this is a Hallmark movie set-up)

Happy Writing however you choose to do it,

~Kristine Brorman

Sources:

[The Creative Penn - Intentionality, Beauty and Authorship. Co-Writing with AI with Stephen Marche](#)

[National Library of Medicine - Artificial insemination history: hurdles and milestones](#)

[Encyclopedia Britannica: artificial insemination](#)

[Slate.com](#)

[Santa Clara University - Guest Editorial: Reproductive Technologies and the Vatican](#)

***opinions expressed are those of the author and not THPW*

Critique Session Guidelines

Critique Sessions may resume March 2022 after the regular bi-monthly meeting. Contingent upon member participation.

- Times New Roman 12pt font
- Double Spaced
- Max 500 words
- Bring 5-10 copies
- Be prepared to contribute
- Be open to critique
- Be kind

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

Our meetings/programs follow this schedule:

Board of Directors Meeting

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 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.)

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. - 12:15 p.m.

Lunch On Your Own

12:15 - 1 p.m.

Critique Session, if Announced

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Need to contact us?

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