



December 11, 2007

The Quill

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Contest winners list

After reading the November Quill several members requested a list of ALL of the Carrie McCray

Petigru Review contributors to appear at signings

Folks whose works are published will be appearing at signings in Greenville and Columbia this week!

Catch up with Upstate contributors from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at The Open Book (110 South Pleasantburg Drive) in Greenville. You'll also have a chance to get a few autographs from Midlands authors from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 15 at The Happy Bookseller (4525 Forest Drive) in Columbia.

Also, while we're talking about the *Petigru Review*, please visit our [Independent Bookstores](#) page on the [SCWW](#) Web site. These stores support SCWW and it would be great for SCWW members to support these stores.

The newest members include The Book Rack of Rock Hill, The Happy Bookseller and The Open Book. It never hurts to ask your locally-owned bookstore if it would like to become a sponsor.

winners whose names were announced at the conference.

Amy Mercer has provided me with the following lists, but confessed that it is missing a few things. Due to a few last-minute rushes, we are missing the name of the third-place winner for non-fiction. In addition, I'd love to know where each person is from.

So, if you're a winner listed here, or you're that mysterious non-fiction winner, drop me a line.

Novels:

1st place: *Barn Shadows* by Heidi Strantz,

2nd: *Chapter One* by Elizabeth Lardaro Martinez,

3rd: *My Name on a Grain of Rice* by Kathryn Eters Lovatt.

Screenplays:

1st: *Bracelets and Boyfriends* by David-Matthew Barnes,

2nd: *A Day in the life* by Brittany Vandeputte,

3rd: *Bruno* by Laura P. Valtorta.

Non-Fiction:

1st:(tie) *My Before and After* by Kim Catanzarite and Shorthand by Mary Hutchins Harris,

2nd: *Hello Cindy* by Lisa Lopez Snyder,

3rd: *A Gardener of Some Influence* by (this is the one I need a name for!)

Poetry:

1st: *Kyrie* by Mary Hutchins Harris,

2nd: *Caution* by David-Matthews Barnes,

3rd: *Choosing Totems* by Tim Harkins.

Short-Fiction:

1st: *Eagles and Wrens* by Heidi Strantz,

2nd: *Chiapaneca Breakdown* by Lisa Lopez Snyder,

Volunteer opportunities with SCWW

While most of us are just winding down from the October conference, the 2008 conference is already gearing up! Do you have a favorite publishing house you'd love to see next time? How about a favorite author whose head you'd love to get into? Well, here's your chance to voice your opinions and help build on the continuing success of sessions past. For more information, contact a board member! Their contact information can be found on our Web site (www.myscww.org/fearless_leaders.htm).

As **Marcia Migacz** mentioned in *Printed Matters*, the all-volunteer board has a number of responsibilities during the year:

- Management of membership lists and dues
- Additions and modifications to the website
- Handling administrative issues for the non-profit group
- Financial management – budget, taxes, and checkbook
- Encouraging communication between the Board and the local chapters
- Communicating with the Advisory Council
- Monthly publishing of *The Quill* newsletter
- Judging and publication of *The Petigru Review*, our literary journal
- Coordination of Summer Workshops
- Running SCWW contests (Carrie McCray, High School Competition, etc.)
- Publicizing workshops, contests and the conference
- Making the annual conference happen (many, many tasks included in this one!)

Although it's the Board members who have agreed to make sure these things happen, there's no reason why you can't help. Most of these jobs have smaller pieces that you could pitch in with to whatever degree you have time and inclination, especially when it comes to the annual conference.

You do not have to be on the Board to help out!

If you're considering volunteering for one of these tasks, but aren't in South Carolina and wonder where other members are, here's a breakdown:

South Carolina: 64 percent

North Carolina: 11 percent

Georgia: 10 percent

Others states: 15 percent

Board notes

While we're on the topic of the SCWW Board meeting, many folks have asked for some information in *Quill* concerning the meetings. So, with a quick thank you to the most recent meeting's secretary (non-official), **Marcia Migacz**, here is bulleted list of topics:

- **Kathryn Lovatt** agreed to be the treasurer next year – She and

3rd: Antlerless by Sam Smith.

Now, a call for entries.

This time is comes from the Gulf Coast Writers Association. The Gulf Coast Writer's Association is planning its first anthology and has invited SCWW to enter. There is no fee and GCWA will pay contributors whose works are selected for one-time publication rights. They will also consider previously published works. For more information, visit <http://gcwriters.org/anthology.htm>

Steve Heckman will prepare a budget for presentation to the board at the first meeting of the year (Saturday, Jan. 5) - We are closing the fiscal year in December and starting the new one in January.

- **Sandra Johnson** will set us up for the SC Book Festival in February – will also get together with Craig to do a poster for the conference – there will be no member booksales at the SCWW table this year.
- The recent conference was "disected," while discussion of the 2008 conference started.
- Suggestions of a new conference chair were discussed.
- A need for more corporate sponsors for the conferences was discussed. Any suggestions would be appreciated.
- We will no longer send surveys via traditional mail.
- The next meeting is slated for **Saturday, Jan. 5**. New board members will start their terms.

How to spice up a signing!

Betty Beamguard offers this us a glimpse into one of her recent events:

Want to liven up your next signing? Attract a crowd? Provide a conversation starter? Bring a 2,000-pound horse.

I recently published the biography of Heather Brooks, a young woman who drives a draft horse with her feet, thanks to John Ingram who invented her foot-control device. Black's Peaches, the produce stand down the road from John's farm, sells the books, so I did a signing there. John and his Shire Ben, who appear on the cover of *How Many Angels Does It Take*, walked down and hung around for over three hours.

Ben, though enclosed in portable fencing, managed to misbehave. He nibbled at anything within reach, including wreaths and a \$50 Fraser fir, and clamped down on the fingers of an admirer who didn't know that touching the end of a horse's nose triggers the bite reflex. We had the added excitement of a crisis in the barn. While crossing the parking lot to put my cider purchase in the car, I heard the call of an animal. Curious, I followed the sound to a fenced enclosure divided into sections with chickens on one end and a horse on the other. In the middle, stood a frantic goat staring me in the face, bleating, "Do something. Do something."

A divider had fallen, allowing three huge hogs to mix with turkeys, sheep and goats. The hogs were following the turkeys, chewing their feathers and kissing them in the face, which they didn't seem to appreciate. With the owners out of town and the staff busy selling Christmas trees, I called for John and my husband, Larry, to help. A comedy ensued as they sorted uncooperative critters by category and repaired the fence.

At the end of the day, we realized we'd not only hosted a wildly successful signing, but had fun doing it. All those who met Ben will talk about him to their friends, giving us added publicity. Now to get permission from the Book Rack to park a draft horse outside their Rock Hill store when I sign there in January.

In closing

By Carrie McCullough, Quill editor

Well, I must say I received a flood of responses after my first Quill. And while many folks were excited, appreciative and provided great input for upcoming editions, some folks were, well, a little harsh. I've been working for the written work professionally for more than a decade and am the first to admit that I'm still learning. And no one is perfect. But please keep in mind that I'm new to the newsletter world -- the technology, the terms, the technique.

Also, I realized those less-than-polite responses bothered me most because these responses reminded me of some self-sabotaging e-mails and letters I received from prospective authors when I was a book publisher. In the world of writing, words carry a heavy weight than in other areas of life. And an e-mail, while casual in method of delivery, should still be written by a writer like any other piece -- as a sample of your craft. Take pride in your craft.

That's my two cents! Until next month -- happy holidays, happy writing and happy reading!

Oh, and if you're looking for a gift that benefits a good cause, consider *Reflections from the Heart*. It's new inspirational book that offers more than a good read -- it also provides a good deed. The proceeds will benefit the Carolina Regional Cancer Center. The co-authors, Flo-Ann Rayle Bender, Cherri Bingham, Mary Harper, Juanita Hoak Hill, Dottie Marie, Donna Maggio and Jan O'Banion Pender agreed they should reach out to the community to help a dream come true, or just make a difference in someone's life.