

Directors meeting will be in June in Lexington, S.C. For more information, please contact a board member. The contact information for these folks can be found on our Web site, www.myscww.org.

Writers grow through working, learning and chatting with other writers! Let us know what you're up to. Please send updates, column ideas and anything else you'd like to share with fellow writers to carriemccullough@bellsouth.net by the 15th of the month.

It is my goal to have The Quill in your inbox around the 20th of each month. Sometimes life gets in the way (or tornados, routers and deadlines!).

Happy Writing!

3. Via the mail, by printing a form from the Web site or using the one in the brochure and mailing it in with a check.

4. By phone, and then mailing a check. To help the organization save money and streamline the registration process, we ask that everyone who is able please register online, even if you plan to pay with a check. This is also in your best interest as your choices for critique are recorded "real time" when you register online. If you mail in your form, your choices may have narrowed by the time we receive it. Please use the phone registration as a last resort.

By all means call if you have questions, but if you can register yourself online or mail in a form, please keep the phone lines open for those with questions or problems. If you have a registration question or problem, or need to register by phone, please call one of the following numbers:

Lateia Sandifer (803) 446-3244

Lisa Lopez Snyder (803) 988-7414

Susan Boyer (864) 834-8164 or (864) 901-2378 (cell)

To reach us via email, send correspondence to conference@myscww.org or susanmboyer@gmail.com.

Making the Most of Your Conference

From Brenda McClain, Conference Co-chair 2004, Former SCWW Board Member

Five months to our conference -- can you believe it? And can you believe that the time to start planning is now? As a frequent attendee of not only our conference, but several others (I confess -- I'm a "conference-holic!"), I thought I'd pass along a tip that has served lots of people I know, including me.

Ask yourself WHY you're going. Set a goal. Is it to interest an agent in your work? Or to get valuable feedback from someone you respect? Or to meet a writing buddy in your area? Or maybe it's just to have fun with folks who love what you love. Regardless, know WHY you're going and WHAT you're after. That will call lots of shots, including the person you request for critique, should you want to go that route. It'll also help inspire you to get your work ready for critique. Or yourself ready to meet new friends.

I saw on a tree one time near Columbia: "By failing to prepare, you prepare to fail." So get that preparation going, Good People. Set your sights.....and make it happen.

See ya at the beach!

Meet the Editors

More information from Susan Boyer. Last month we met the agents. This month let's get to know the editors.

Hello Everyone! A couple of quick conference notes, and then I'll introduce you to our awesome lineup of editors for 2008: Brochures will be mailed from the printer within the next week. If you requested

a print copy, it should be arriving soon. We'll also be emailing the electronic version to everyone who receives *The Quill*. If you need the full 18-page print copy, you can still get one by going to the "Contact Us" page on the Web site, (click on "Conference," then "Contacts") and clicking on the link to request one. To keep costs as low as possible, we're hoping that most will opt to use the emailed brochure and the Web site, but we're happy to send the hard copy to those who request it. In other conference news, we've been contacted by *Writer's Digest*, and the magazine is going to feature the SCWW conference in one of their upcoming columns! We'll keep you posted on which issue the article will appear in. As always, please visit www.myscww.org/conference for all the latest conference information.

And now for the editors...you'll find their full bios on the Web site. Some of these have been edited for length. Please join us this October to meet:

Bruce Bortz, the founder of Bancroft Press, has been a book editor and publisher since 1991. Bancroft Press has published titles ranging from thrillers, Hollywood novels, young adult fiction, and mysteries, on the fiction side, to non-fiction books that run the gamut from humor, health, and cultural criticism, to history, business, self-help, and personal investment. The press has received special recognition from *Publishers Weekly*, which calls Bancroft "small but enterprising," from *Brodart*, which made Bancroft the first Gem publisher it profiled, and from syndicated columnist Liz Smith, who has called it "up and coming." Bancroft Press is consistently ranked among the nation's top 100 independent presses. It is one of the very few that concentrates on fiction. And it may be the only independent house to employ its own full-time screenwriter.



Charlotte Cook, President of KOMENAR Publishing, co-founded this mainstream house in 2005 to bring attention and opportunity to remarkable first-time novelists (literary mainstream, mystery, historical, adventure, etc.). Her hope is for authors to realize a productive and successful career from their start with Komenar. *Writer's Digest*

featured Charlotte and KOMENAR in the February 2008 "Ask The Pro" column. KOMENAR concentrates on quality authorship supported by well-designed covers and marketing materials, as well as innovative marketing strategies. With a talented and nimble team, the first four titles have earned many awards, reviews, and sales. (*My Half of the Sky* was a BookSense Pick, and *Outside Child* is breaking sales records for Komenar.)

Claudia Gabel joined the Delacorte Press imprint of Random House Children's Books in November 2005 as an editor after two years in children's book packaging and four years in adult publishing. Her editorial interests are varied, but she's always looking for a distinctive, unforgettable narrative voice. Her specialty is commercial fiction, including sweet, but sexy contemporary romances, sweeping historical epics, thrilling whodunits, and chilling horror novels. She is currently seeking out literary titles to add to her list, especially ones that deal



with identity and multicultural issues. Recent titles include *Anatomy of a Boyfriend* by Daria Snadowsky, *The Other Half of Me* by Emily Franklin, and *Stray* by Stacey Goldblatt. She lives in New York City.



Sulay Hernandez has been an editor at Simon and Schuster's Touchstone Fireside imprint for the past year and was previously at Kensington Publishing and before that worked at a literary agency. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College where she concentrated on literature. She acquires a variety of both fiction and non-fiction including women's fiction, thrillers, pop-culture, memoir, cooking, humor, and business.

Rose Hilliard is an associate editor at St. Martin's Press, where she primarily handles women's fiction, romance and pop culture books for mass market, trade and hardcover. She began her publishing career in 2001 as an editorial assistant at Time Warner Book Group, and went on to work as an assistant editor at Penguin's New American Library. She looks for stories with a great hook, an appealing voice and memorable characters.



Michael Homler is an editor at St. Martin's Press. He acquires in a wide range of areas which include literary fiction, mystery/thrillers, graphic novels, narrative nonfiction and biography. He has worked on such books as the NBCC winning biography *James Tiptree Jr.* by Julie Phillips, *The Fault Tree* by Louise Ure, the Edgar-nominated *Pyres* by Derek Nikitas, Lee Child's anthology *Killer Year*, and *Hitting is Simple* by Don Mattingly and Jim Rosenthal.



Jeanne Leiby grew up Downriver Detroit. She graduated from the University of Michigan, earned her MA from the Bread Loaf School of English/Middlebury College, and her MFA from the University of Alabama. Her stories have appeared in *Fiction*, *New Orleans Review*, *Greensboro Review*, and *Indiana Review* among other magazines. Her collection of short stories titled *downriver*, winner of the Doris Bakwin Prize from Carolina Wren Press, was published in fall 2007. Jeanne is the editor of *The Southern Review*.

Dave Long is a Fiction Acquisitions Editor with Bethany House Publishers, an imprint of Baker Publishing Group. Before migrating to the editorial side of the company, he spent six years in the marketing department. He's authored two novels, one of which won a Christy Award, and he is the voice behind the faith*in*fiction writing community. He acquires across genres from historical romance and women's contemporary drama to police procedurals and literary fiction.



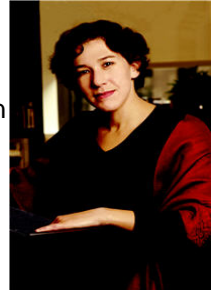
Authors he's worked with include Lisa Wingate, Deeanne Gist, Kathryn Cushman, Athol Dickson, Paul Robertson, and numerous others.



Carrie McCullough started the publishing consultation firm McCullough Consulting in 2006. She brings to the business more than a decade in the media and

entertainment industry, including editorial positions at newspapers in Augusta, Georgia, Florence, S.C., Anderson, S.C., Beaufort, S.C., and Columbia, S.C. All of this is in addition to her experience at a regional publisher in Augusta, where she worked her way up the ladder from publicist to publisher in less than two years. Carrie works with authors and writers through all stages of their careers. McCullough Consulting offers editing, publicity and submission assistance, as well as contract consultations and suggestions.

Asya Muchnick is a Senior Editor and has been at Little, Brown since January 2001. She acquires mostly literary fiction and narrative nonfiction, including history, biography, and cultural history. On the fiction side, Asya work with Mark Childress, Michael Connelly, Janet Fitch, Pete Hamill, Stephenie Meyer, Carolyn Parkhurst, Alice Sebold, and Anita Shreve. Forthcoming books include Stephenie Meyer's first adult trade novel, *The Host*, and a first novel by Richard Lange, whose debut story collection *Dead Boys* garnered great acclaim last year. On the nonfiction side, some of her books are Asne Seierstad's *The Bookseller of Kabul*, Marina Belozerskaya's *The Medici Giraffe* and *Other Tales of Exotic Animals and Power*, and Lisa Hilton's *Athenais: The Life of Louis XIV's Mistress*. Upcoming projects include Charlotte Gordon's *The Woman Who Named God*, an examination of the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; Peter Trachtenberg's *The Book of Calamities*, a multifaceted meditation on suffering; Robert Mrazek's *A Dawn Like Thunder* about a torpedo squadron in the Pacific War; and David Sedaris's new book, *When You Are in Flames*.



Katherine Nintzel is an editor for William Morrow/HarperCollins, where she works with a broad range of fiction and nonfiction. She is looking for literary fiction and fiction that straddles the line between literary and commercial; speculative fiction and fantasy; and narrative nonfiction, including memoir and pop culture. Recent and upcoming titles include Christina Baker Kline's return to fiction with *The Way Life Should Be*; Jessica Anya Blau's coming-of-age debut *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties*; the *New York Times* bestselling *Sharing Knife* series by Lois McMaster Bujold; and Karen Dawn's *Thanking the Monkey: Rethinking the Way We Treat Animals*, a hip, glossy call-to-arms covering the broad spectrum of the animal rights movement.

Jennifer Pooley has been an Editor with HarperCollins imprint William Morrow since 1998 where her list encompasses literary and mainstream fiction and non-fiction. She has most recently published Willy's Vlautin's *Northline*, Sarah Hall's *Daughters of the North*, and Jennifer Sey's *Chalked Up* and upcoming titles from her include Michael Zadoorian's *The Leisure Seeker* (a novel she acquired with film rights to Sharp Independent at HarperCollins, www.sharpindependent.com which also holds the film option on Willy Vlautin's *Northline*) and Daniel James Brown's *Following Sarah: The Harrowing Wedding Journey of Sarah Graves Fosdick*. She is actively seeking new voices in literary and mainstream fiction and nonfiction (memoir, history, biography, journalism, social, and



popular science). She also acquires more whimsical work, including memoir that delivers an unforgettable arm chair experience such as Marjorie Hart's *Summer at Tiffany* -- which she discovered at the San Diego State University Writers Conference in January 2006 and acquired from the 83-year-old debut author on its first 20 pages alone -- and gift/pop culture titles such as Amy Allen's *This Little Piggy Went to Prada* and Concetta Bertoldi's *Do Dead People Watch You Shower?*

Toni Weisskopf succeeded Jim Baen as publisher of Baen Books, a leading publisher of sf and fantasy, in 2006. She has worked with such authors as David Weber, David Drake, Lois McMaster Bujold, Eric Flint, Wen Spencer, and many others. With Josepha Sherman she compiled and annotated the definitive volume of subversive children's folklore, *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts*, published by August House, now in its third printing. For Baen she's edited three original hard sf anthologies: *Cosmic Stories: Adventures in Sol System*, *Cosmic Stories: Adventures in Far Futures* and most recently *Transhuman*, with sf author Mark L. Van Name.



What You Can Do On Your Summer Vacation

Sponsor an SCWW workshop, you say? Hmm...sounds like a good idea, but also like a lot of work. And all I really want to do is soak up some rays and maybe sip a lime-wedged Corona or two.

What? I can do that and still pull off a workshop? Tell me more. OK. It's really very simple – but first a bit of background.

The SCWW has sponsored free half-day workshops for years. Typically, they've been held in Greenville, Colombia, and Charlotte – good for the metro areas, but a little far to travel for some of our outlying chapters. So, it only makes sense to expand our offerings statewide.

How simple is it? First, you secure an author (usually a local author who's been published and may have some name recognition in the area) and a location (public libraries may require a bit of paperwork, but they're free and provide a nice venue). Then publicize the event through local newspapers, flyers at bookstores, and in *The Quill*. The SCWW can offer the author a \$100 honorarium and mileage, if appropriate (available through our treasurer, Kathryn Lovatt). And the author may sign and sell his or her books at the event. The workshops offer our membership an excellent opportunity for professional development and may attract new members.

Having the free workshops also helps keep the SCWW eligible for various types of grant funding. And, in the end, it's just a great thing to do on your summer vacation.

Member chatter

Charleston Chapter

As part of the North Charleston Arts Festival, **Ellen Shoener** conducted a Reflective Writing Workshop. Nearly a dozen

participants listened as Ellen read some of her short writings and an excerpt from her travel novel. She then assigned them each a prompt so they could work on their own essay. Everyone stayed late for questions and comments. For information on how to host a workshop for next year's festival go to www.northcharleston.org.

Brenda McClain moderated the first-ever authors panel at Edisto, sponsored by the Edisto Bookstore, on May 16. Novelists Cassandra King and Beth Webb Hart as well as former Greenville News editorial cartoonist Kate Salley Palmer, a children's book author and illustrator, appeared before the crowd of about 40 people. It was such a success that another is planned for the Fall. Stay tuned!

Betty Belekis, writing as Elizabeth Jean Allen, has her first novel coming out sometime in May. Published by Rock Publishing of Rockville, MD, *My Mother's Shoes* is a humorous mystery with lots of action and colorful characters readers will love to root for. Find out more at www.elizabethjeanallen.com.

Joseph C. Wilson, author of children's book, *A Mud's Eye View of Charleston's History*, has chosen Mary Ogden Fersner to edit his new children's book.

Greenville Chapter

Bob Strother has a thing for short stories. He's been working on a second novel for nearly four years, but ideas for short stories keep getting in the way. Since 2005, Bob has written about three dozen stories, a couple of dozen of which have been published in more than a dozen literary journals. Most recently, his story "Grabbing at Moonbeams" was published in the spring issue of *The Storyteller*, and picked up for reprint in the Gulf Coast Writers' Association anthology, *Tea Cakes and Afternoon Tales*, due for release in June. "Working on a novel takes discipline," Bob says, "which, undoubtedly, I need more of. But my mind keeps buzzing with all these ideas for short stories, so I try to put them down on paper before they're lost forever."

Rock Hill Chapter

Martha T. Robinson's first poem to be published, "Before I Knew" is now posted online at <http://www.momwriterslitmag.com> and also in the Spring 2008 print edition of the magazine.

Members at Large

Doug and Robin Hewitt have just published their book *The Joyous Gift of Grandparenting: 101 Practical & Meaningful Activities to Share Your Love* through Hatherleigh Press. It is described as the cool grandparent's activity and advice guide to bonding with their grandkids! Doug and Robin's Web site: www.HewittsBooks.com.