



The Quill

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From Our President Time to Celebrate!

Imagine my excitement at learning that a participant at our 2008 conference attended the S.C. Book Festival as a published author! **Pat Guerry Hodnett** found a publisher through her manuscript critique with **Robert Lamb** of Red Letter Press. Lamb showed me Hodnett's book, *A Place*

Conference Update!

By Vice President, Conference Chair Carrie McCullough & Vice President & Conference Co-Chair Lateia Elam Sandifer

The countdown to registration has started. Thank you to all of the members, and future members, who have already contacted us about registration, costs and volunteering. For those who are interested in volunteering, we're doing that a little different this year. The major volunteer areas of the conference (registration desk, proctor station, Book Nook, Silent Auction, etc.) have volunteer captains. We've given these captains a list of members interested in volunteering. The captains will chose their "wish lists" from those choices and possibly offer other names as well. We should have those spots confirmed in April. If you have any questions about being a volunteer, please contact Lateia at lateia.sandifer@gmail.com.

Basic Info: This year's conference will be Oct. 23-25, with early arrivals on Thursday, Oct. 22 for those attending the Friday intensive workshops. We're back at The Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort.

Room rates are the same as last year's (\$97 for Hilton rooms, Royale Palms 1BR: \$109; 2BR: \$199; 3BR: \$249). There will be a slight increase in the cost of the registration. However, we still strive to be one of the most affordable

for Lily Kate, with great pride, stating that he told her that it needed to be published and he would do so.

Wow! What an exciting experience for Ms. Hodnett. From the surveys with the 2008 conference faculty, I know that over 50 manuscripts were requested by our agents and editors. Pat's success made me curious about the results of all of those requests. So I'm asking: How many of you connected with someone who is publishing or mentoring you in your quest for publication?

SCWW rarely learns about the published successes of our members. This is unfortunate because the news of your success can encourage others to keep plugging away. Plus, it enhances the image of our organization. So, my request this month is that you contact me or a member of our Board of Directors to share your success. Let us celebrate with you!

You can contact Barbara V. Evers at president@myscww.org.

Next Quill Contest

Ahh Spring! Does it evoke visions of bright yellow daffodils, cuddly bunnies and soft, wafting breezes? Or is it more the dark side with hay fever and allergies, the stench and gore of road kill and the unstable weather of thunderstorms, freak snowstorms and tornadoes?

"Spring it on Us"

Send us your poems and stories about spring, that take place in spring, or have an element of spring in them.

Here are the rules:

Poetry - 40 lines maximum

Prose - 1,500 word maximum

Entries must be original and unpublished. Please send them via e-mail to Kim Blum-Hyclak at rhyclak@comporium.net. Please send your entry as an attachment with your contact info (name, phone, address) in the body of the e-mail. This will insure blind

conferences. The new registration rates will be posted very soon. Please visit www.myscww.org often for the latest information on all things conference.

We'll profile individual faculty members throughout the year, starting this month with our keynote speaker, Steve Berry.

All of the conference information will be posted on the Web site very soon. In the meantime, please call or e-mail Carrie if you have questions, 706-798-9545, 706-564-7998 or carriemccullough@bellsouth.net.

And now, a little more about Steve Berry!



Steve Berry is a busy man. He lives on the Georgia coast, and though (after 29 years) he no longer practices law, he's still active in local politics, having served on the Camden County Board of Education and currently serving as one of five members of the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

And, of course, he writes.

Steve has been writing since 1990, and though his undergraduate degree was in political science and he's trained as a lawyer, it was Steve's interest in history that led to him writing international suspense thrillers. They were the kind of books he liked to read, so naturally they became the kind of book he liked to write. Steve doesn't adhere to the adage, 'Write what you know'; instead, he says, 'Write what you love.' He also credits the nuns who taught him in Catholic school with instilling the discipline needed both to craft a novel and to find a publisher. It took Steve 12 years—85 rejections over 5 different manuscripts—before Ballantine Books finally bought a manuscript. Like he says, "I'm the poster child for the phrase, 'It can be done.'"

Steve's first two books, *The Amber Room* and *The Romanov Prophecy*, were both national bestsellers. His next novel, *The Third Secret*, became an instant bestseller, debuting at #13 on *The New York Times* hardcover list and climbing to #5 on the *Times* paperback list. His fourth, *The Templar Legacy*, entered at #4 on *The New York Times* list and spent 8 weeks in the Top 10. It also climbed into the Top 10 on the *USA Today*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Booksense* bestseller lists. *The Alexandria Link* debuted on *The New York Times* hardcover list at #2. *The Venetian Betrayal*, became an instant *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *USA Today* bestseller in both hardcover and paperback. His latest is *The Charlemagne Pursuit*, which opened in the Top 10 on both *The New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly* lists. It also was a *USA Today* bestseller and was selected as one of the 5 Best Thrillers for 2008 by *Library Journal*. There are nearly 8,000,000 copies of his books in print worldwide.

judging.

Or, send two copies with a cover sheet to:
Kim Blum-Hyclak
1315 Treetop Dr.
Lancaster, SC 29720

Entries must be received by April 30, 2009.

The Petigru Review Entries

Remember, *The Petigru Review* deadline is approaching on April 30, 2009.

Please mail the cover sheet and four paper copies of each manuscript flat, in a manila or other large-sized envelope, to: **Kevin Coyle, South Carolina Writers Workshop, 2131 Woodruff Road, Suite 2100, Box 188, Greenville, SC 29607**. In addition, please send a copy of each manuscript as a Microsoft Word attachment (with a “.doc” suffix, not “.docx”) in a separate e-mail to kevin@kevincoyle.net. All envelopes must be postmarked and all e-mails with attachments must be sent no later than **April 30, 2009**.

Steve is also an international bestseller. Rights to his novels have been sold in 49 countries and 39 languages. Even an award or two have drifted his way. In June 2005, Steve was selected by the Georgia Writer's Association (based on *The Romanov Prophecy*) as its Author of the Year. Then, in October 2005, the Amelia Book Island Festival bestowed their first ever Nova Award. In November 2007, Steve was elected co-president of International Thriller Writers, a position he still holds.

He's presently writing the next Cotton Malone adventure.

How Can We Help?

By Chapter Liaison Bob Strother

As you may have gathered from articles in *The Quill*, the SCWW is going “green” for this year’s conference. Why, you ask? And what exactly does that mean? The answer’s simple. Everyone’s feeling the crush of the recession; everyone’s trying to do more with less. The SCWW is no exception. That’s why we’re re-using as much as possible from previous conferences, and combing the resources from within our membership to make the most of the resources that are already available.

And you can help.

The chapters have been great supporters in past years, donating books, baskets, and other auction items for the conference. This year, we’re offering even more opportunities to help cut costs and still provide participants with the outstanding conference-going experience we’ve become recognized for in the last couple of years. The list below identifies potential sponsorship opportunities and corresponding costs for this year’s conference. Any help is appreciated and partnering is encouraged. The Aiken Chapter has already offered to help with coffee, and perhaps more.

Also, please note that we plan to provide “Chapter Tables” this year, where members from each chapter can sign and sell their work. For \$100, this is a real bargain and a great opportunity for broad exposure.

If your chapter is interested in sponsoring one or more of the items listed below, please contact directly: conference chair, Carrie McCullough, at mcculloughca@bellsouth.net or Lateia Sandifer, conference co-chair, at lateia.sandifer@gmail.com.

Working together, we can maintain the SCWW’s reputation as one of the premier writers’ organizations in the country.

Chapter Sponsorships for the 2009 SCWW Conference
Gallon of Coffee: \$50.00
Drink Tickets for Faculty: \$7.00/each
Chapter Table: \$100.00
Friends of SCWW: \$25.00 and up

Mid Morning Break: \$600.00

**Up to 2 chapters can sponsor each break and we have 3 breaks total*

Coffee/Muffin Table: \$200.00

**3 Total Opportunities*

Lanyards/Name badges: \$150.00

**Up to 3 Sponsors*

Promotional Bookmarks: \$100.00

**One sponsorship available*

Credit Card Machines

**Open to suggestions---is anyone willing to let us use their business machine?*

Notebooks: \$350.00

**2 Sponsorships available and member/chapter will get a full page ad in the notebook*

Cocktail Party: \$1,000.00

Any donations, especially industry books, will be greatly appreciated. All appropriate donations will be used in the silent auction to generate revenue for SCWW. (Gently used books are accepted. Please no creased covers or cracked spines.) We are also accepting creative donations, including, but not limited to, sketches, paintings, needlework, quilts, and decorative items. We also love to auction industry-appropriate services/enhancements such as web design and writing software, computer hardware, massage cushions and lighting enhancers.

Chapter Chatter/Member Chatter

Greenville

Bob Strother's short story, "The Malcontent" has been published in *Everyday Weirdness*, an e-zine specializing in fantasy, science fiction, and horror. "Everyday Weirdness collects weird works — prose & poetry, artwork & illustration, and a variety of other media — and strives to publish them 7 days a week for your enjoyment."

As **Carole St-Laurent** puts the finishing touches on her novel, *Bring Me To Life*, she is also bringing to life her new Romance Blog, *The Punch Line*, co-authored by her critique partner, Sharon Bernas.

At a workshop geared for writers, Carole recently learned that even unpublished writers should have a presence on the Web. Agents and editors are more and more likely to google a writer's name to see what comes up. Having a blog, and keeping it updated in a timely fashion can help train a writer to meet deadlines. After being published, it can be used to keep in touch with her readership. A writer has to learn early how to self promote, and, according to the workshop, the new medias are the best tools to use: Web sites, blogs, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, etc.

Even though these are challenging times, **Valerie Norris** has convinced her agent to submit her book to five publishing houses — the ones on her list that don't accept

unsolicited manuscripts. When Valerie expressed some doubt about her chances, her agent told her, "you write beautifully."

Lynda Lippman-Lockhart's first children's book *Oodles of Poodles of Dark Corner*, which was written in South Carolina and tells a little about the area of Dark Corner, has been published. To find out more, visit <http://oodlesofpoodlesbook.com/>.

Myrtle Beach

Richard Lutman of the Myrtle Beach Chapter has had his chapbook of flash fiction accepted by The Last Automat Press. *Altered Images* is due late spring or early summer.

Members-at-Large

Ron Cooper or Ocala, Fla., had two poems appear in the February issue of *Hanging Moss Journal*. Also, his poem "Tonality" was selected for inclusion in the upcoming anthology *Tribute to Orpheus 2*. He recently gave readings from his novel, *Hume's Fork*, at the Alachua County Library and to the Daytona branch of the Center for Inquiry. or Ocala, Fla., had two poems appear in the February issue of . Also, his poem "Tonality" was selected for inclusion in the upcoming anthology . He recently gave readings from his novel, , at the Alachua County Library and to the Daytona branch of the Center for Inquiry.

Maureen Sherbondy's first short story collection, *The Slow Vanishing*, will be published by Main Street Rag Publishing Company in the fall.

Quill Contest Winners

We have our first winners! Congratulations to the following writers for their winning entries in our inaugural *Quill* Writing Contest.

Poetry

First Place: *Boxed In (I)* by Carol Furtwangler
Due to 2 poems with the same title, I and II were added to differentiate.

Second Place: *Defining Box* by Carolyn C. Rice

Fiction

First Place: *Releasing Raylene* by Cynthia Boiter
Second Place: *The Queen's Express* by Billie Bierer

Nonfiction

First Place: *Magical Boxes* by Patricia Webster Stewart
Second Place: *The Shoebox* by S. Jane Gari

Each month, we'll print a first-place winning piece in *The*

Quill.

Boxed In
By Carol Furtwangler

I said Yes
because I thought I'd never get another chance.
And, let's be honest,
I had nothing better to do.
Two years of college classes I mostly cut
bored be breathless, and
your eyes were so blue.

Six weeks after
that first hug—My God,
how good it felt to be enveloped,
nearly disappearing in your arms —
we shopped for patterns, sterling,
formal and everyday china place settings,
like the children we were, giggling and holding hands,

sales ladies nodding,
remembering, smiling at our
delight discovering
we liked precisely the same things,
a mystery, a miracle
unique among the couples
of the universe.

Now when I bring home imported pasta,
matching beach chairs, bourbon aged 12 years,
a scowl turns your smooth face
into a mask of disapproving wrinkles.
Words have become our enemies—pebbles
tossed so hard they break the surface
of our private pond:

No concentric circles form or last.
Dearly beloved, husband of my heart,
father of our flawless children,
it seems we will not make a decade,
never mind forever.
I swear I never will know
how it happened.

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