

The Quill

From the Editor

1. [Conference Update](#)
 2. [Good Question!](#)
 3. [Quill Contest](#)
 4. [Member Chatter](#)
 5. [From the Round Table](#)
-

Web site Update

Our New Webmaster Todd Plants is making changes and updates to the SCWW site. Make you sure you visit our site often for the latest information on the conference, The Petigru Review and writing contests.

Blog Address

We have a new blog address! For more information on the South Carolina Writers' Workshop and its upcoming conference, please visit the SCWW blog, <http://scwwblog.blogspot.com>.

Quill Deadline Reminder

Do you have something you'd like included in the next Quill? Please be sure to submit it to the editor.

Conference Update

From 2010 Conference Co-chair Kia Goins:

Thank you to all of those who answered Carrie's call for volunteers for our 20th Annual Conference. We had a tremendous response and the selection process was a difficult one.



I think we have a wonderful cross-section of the SCWW membership represented in this year's volunteers.

Some volunteers are working on conference matters in the months preceding October. And others will be an active presence at the conference to help you have a great conference experience.

Below is a list of the volunteers and their hometowns:

1. Helen Aitken – Swansboro, N.C.
2. Rebeca Antley – Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
3. Brooke Buffington – Anderson, S.C.
4. Teresa Burgher – Mexico, Mo.
5. Betty Busch – Aiken, S.C.
6. Barbara Claypole-White – Chapel Hill, N.C.
7. Paula Huffman – Statesville, N.C.
8. Kim Hyclak-Blum – Lancaster, S.C.
9. Jan Kelleher – West Columbia, S.C.
10. Robin Lewis – Conway, S.C.
11. Shelby Adams Lloyd – Southport, N.C.
12. Kay Mortimer – Aiken, S.C.
13. Ginny Padgett – Columbia, S.C.
14. Barbie Perkins-Cooper – Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
15. Brenda Remmes – Mayesville, S.C.
16. Bob Strother – Greenville, S.C.
17. Vicki Strother – Greenville, S.C.
18. Letisha Wilson – Charleston, S.C.

We are looking forward to a great conference and hope

next *Quill*? Please be sure to submit it via e-mail, no later than the 15th of the month, to thequill@myscww.org.

That's a Good Question!

In this space we'll answer questions and address comments that come to the Board's attention through our survey, our chapter leaders or directly to a director. In addition to passing along information, we hope this will give you insight into the workings of the South Carolina Writers Workshop and its Board of Directors. Vice President Kim Blum-Hyclak tackled issue's questions and does it again this month. Thanks, Kim!



Please keep in mind that some comments we received cannot be answered because the SCWW membership is a creative, diverse bunch. So while one person might have complained and wondered why the food at the conference was lousy, there will be the opposite comment that someone loved the food. Actually, most attendees liked the food this year. The same goes for the response to the faculty. The person one member learned a lot from may be the same agent or editor another member thought was disorganized.

The Board of the South Carolina Writers Workshop strives to provide the encouraging and supportive environment all writers need. If we miss the mark once in a while, please politely let us know.

Q. Why can't the one day workshops rotate so they aren't always at the same place?

A. That's a good point but the Board doesn't organize those. The one day workshops are the responsibility of the Chapters. The Board provides a stipend to pay for a presenter, but that's all the Board does. Of the eighteen SCWW Chapters across the state, only four of them have taken on the task of organizing and hosting a workshop. So if members would like to see more one day workshops, closer to home, speak to your Chapter Leaders and help them put one together. . .

The workshops take some time and effort to put together but it's not difficult and they are worth it. Once a Chapter has decided on a speaker, the Chapter President or a representative needs to approach the Board and request the stipend. Because we receive grants from various sources there are certain requirements we have to meet in distributing those funds. There is a form that needs to be filled out. Information about the presenter such as a bio and a sample of his/her work is also required. Again, it's not hard, just something that needs to be done. What kind of workshops can a Chapter do? The possibilities are endless and only

to see you there.

Also, for a list of the faculty members and some additions to the conference for 2010, keep an eye out for a special edition! In the meantime, if you have any questions, e-mail conference@myscww.org.

Chapter/Member/Sponsor Chatter

Surfside

Richard Lutman's novelette *The Nut Tree* can be found under the story archives of the February 15 *The Bicycle Review*.

Myrtle Beach

Mary Eaddy's Southern novel *The Oaks of McCord* will be released by Bella Rosa Books this summer. For more information, be sure to visit www.maryeaddy.com.

From the Round Table

Welcome to a new feature of The Quill. Each month you'll meet a different SCWW board member, learn a little about their duties, and get to know them as individuals. We kick off this column with a look at our president.

Kim Blum-Hyclak SCWW Vice President

A biography, hmm? With my background in social work and youth ministry, listening to and observing others comes naturally. Talking about myself, well, not so much. But I'll give it a shot.

One of my poems begins, "I can't remember a time when I did not write . . ." I write poetry, personal essay and literary fiction. As with most writers, I see things differently than other people. My husband's favorite description of me, a little left of center, is pretty accurate and one I'm comfortable with.

My taste in humor runs along the lines of The Far Side, Calvin and Hobbes and the current Lio. I appreciate all kinds of art, so in the garden nook off my kitchen I have a print of Monet's *Water Lilies* . . . alongside three prints of Salvador Dali's and if I could find something of Frieda Kahlo's of just the right size, hers would be there, too. And there's a piece of fabric art of my own creation, *Family Tree*; one really doesn't notice right away the trunk and branches are a woman's silhouette with up-stretched arms.

For over twenty years I've been part of a reading trio, we call ourselves The Rowdy Readers. There's no rhyme or reason to the books we read each month, except they've never been on Oprah's list. Years ago, our first book after a brief sabbatical was *The Singular Pilgrim* by Rosemary Mahoney. It's a lovely book about Mahoney's spiritual quest as she travels six pilgrimages of six different spiritual practices. The next month we read June Juska's *Round-Heeled Woman*. Ms. Juska placed

limited by the members' interests.

Since I'm from the Rock Hill Chapter and we're hosting our fourth annual workshop in May, I can only speak from our experience. For our first three we had a keynote speaker in the morning and break-out sessions in the afternoon. Our first keynoter was Gwen Hunter, our second was a local author and NPR guest, Kay McSpadden and our third was Charlotte columnist, Dannye Romine. This year we're having a five member panel headed by Ann Hicks. Some of you may remember her from the 2009 conference. The keynotes were on general topics for all writers: making characters believable, finding your voice and the ten commandments for writers. This year's topic will be 'Is Your Manuscript Ready for Publication?' Afternoon sessions are for specific interests; magazine writing, poetry, fantasy, etc.

Other Chapters have not done a full day workshop but have hosted successful half day events or something for a couple of hours. Some have brought in authors to talk about their latest books, followed by Q&A and book signing. Others have had a workshop on craft.

So Chapter Leaders, what do you say? Anyone ready to provide a little food for the writers' soul to tide us over until the feast at the conference?

Q. Some of the Quill Contests are puzzling. Can you explain them more?

A. As Contest Chair, I apologize for not being more specific with the Quill Contest themes. This was our first year resurrecting the contests so we've definitely been tweaking along the way. Your comment is helpful and I hope my solution will be also. If not, please let me know!

What I'll do from now on is provide more examples of how the theme can be interpreted. This might get the creative juices flowing and writers can take it from there. Please feel free to write and answer the challenge in whatever way works for you. If after mulling over the theme it's still not speaking to you, drop me an e-mail and together we can figure it out.

For full disclosure, I do purposely keep the themes somewhat broad. I want you to have fun with them and take the ideas wherever they lead you. If someone takes the prompt at face value, that's fine. Some of the responses I've gotten have been way off the grid – which makes for interesting twists. And to be honest, I have no preconceived ideas of what the results will be and I'm not looking for specific responses. These are fun contests to nudge the imagination a little bit. I get a kick out of reading how everyone uses the themes.

Q. Can you give us a schedule of the Quill Contests?

A. I can give you the schedule but I can't give you the themes. I can't in part because I don't have them planned out too far in advance and if they

an ad in the personals column of the *New York Review of Books* that read, "Before I turn 67-next March, I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like." As I said, no rhyme or reason and that kind of variety adds to the rowdiness of our luncheon gatherings. Apart from the Rowdy Readers I'll read almost anything. The list of genres I don't grab is short. Currently next to my chair are *Let the Great World Spin*, *The Strength in What Remains*, *The Art of Detection* and poetry by Ted Kooser.

I've always had a weakness for the smell and sense of the outdoors – hubby's most effective bribe is the promise of a walk through Home Depot's lumber section. When I'm not writing or reading, I'm doing yard or woods maintenance, either at home or at my cottage. I crave the inner solitude of pulling weeds, mowing the lawn or felling trees - yes, felling trees. I have my own ax, and I love its thwack as blade bites bark and, of course, the aroma of wood hitting my nostrils. I often write and read outside for the wide open space.

My husband and I are almost full empty-nesters, our youngest of five leaves in the fall. After years of homeschooling and working, this phase of my life is an adventure I'm excited to tackle.

involve photos there wouldn't be room in the Quill for more than one. I also like to keep the response time around six weeks. I'm taking my cue from the writing contests in Writers Digest, they issue their writing prompt each month.

Here is how the Quill Contest schedule is laid out:

Winter Quill Contest – Deadline January 31. Judges have until March 12 to render their decision. Winners are announced in the March Quill, along with the theme for the Spring Contest.

Spring Quill Contest – Deadline April 30. Judges have until June 12 to render their decision. Winners are announced in the June Quill along with the theme for the Summer Contest.

Summer Quill Contest – Deadline July 31. Judges have until September 12 to render their decision. Winners are announced in the September Quill along with the theme for the Autumn Contest.

Autumn Quill Contest – Deadline October 31. Judges have until December 12 to render their decision. Winners are announced in the December Quill along with the theme for Winter.

Quill Contest Guidelines

Speaking of the *Quill* contests, Kim offers the theme for Spring:

Ballreich Potato Chips. Unless you're from North Central Ohio, you have no idea what that means or why my adult children wonder, "You are bringing back Ballreich's, aren't you?" whenever I trek home to Ohio for a visit. But we all have foods that say "home" or feed more than our bodies. They feed our soul.

The theme for the Quill Spring Writing Contest is **SOUL FOOD**. What food do you crave after a rough day? Chocolate? Ice cream? Or my sister's favorite, mashed potatoes and gravy? What tastes and smells take you right back to when you were a kid? Mine would be Ballreich Potato Chips or Queen Anne's Cherries picked from my neighbor's tree and canned in a light amber syrup that's not sugary sweet but . . . Sorry, getting carried away! What is that special dish that has to be on the holiday table or people wonder if it's a holiday at all? If my Grandma Schmitt's Cranberry Goop doesn't make an appearance at Thanksgiving and Christmas, there's grumbling among the children.

We don't want recipes, well maybe in a separate e-mail, we do want your soul experience with food. The food won't necessarily be your favorite food at the moment, but the one that just the thought of brings a smile to your face and takes you to a specific time, place or person. And tell us why it takes you to those memories.

Contest in a nutshell: Theme - Soul Food

Length Limit

Prose (fiction and nonfiction) - 1500 words

Poetry - 40 Lines

Deadline - in my e-mail or postmarked no later than April 30

Guidelines

* You may enter each category, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, but only one submission in each.

* Please follow standard submission guidelines.

Prose should be double-spaced, poetry may or may not be.

Use 12 pt. Times New Roman or Courier font.

Use a 1" margin on all sides.

Title and page number should be on all pages.

Your name may not be anywhere in the manuscript.

If e-mailing, please send manuscript as a .doc attachment.

Send a cover sheet in the body of the e-mail and include name, title of manuscript/poem, mailing address, phone number.

If sending via real mail, include cover sheet and 2 copies of the manuscript/poem.

Send to:

rhyclak@comporium.net

OR

Kim Blum-Hyclak

1315 Treetop Dr.

Lancaster, SC 29720

Copyright 2010 South Carolina Writers Workshop

This project was funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.