



the Broadside

Nebraska Writers Guild

NOVEMBER 2013

Excellence in Writing Since 1925

A Successful Fall Conference

The Good Samaritan Village in Grand Island welcomed back the Nebraska Writers Guild for the Fall Conference. Joining Omaha Film Festival Program Director Marc Longbrake as presenter was psychological expert Dr. Joyce Sasse and New York Times bestselling author (and Guild treasurer) Victorine Lieske.

In addition to presentations and panel discussions, the members held a general meeting which is summarized inside on Page 4. Key decisions made included re-election of every eligible officer and keeping bylaws up to date.

Members thanked Judy Rosenkotter for her service as Historian as she reached the conclusion of her second term. Judy has done a lot to revitalize our association with the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors and thanks to her efforts we've been blessed with the interesting historic features in the past four issues of the *Bulletin*.

Upcoming NWG Calendar Dates

Important events for the upcoming year include:

Jan 1: Send in "Published in 2013" items

Feb 8: February *Broadside* Deadline

Mar 1: Deadline for NWG Dues

Apr 1: Spring Conference Registration Deadline

Apr 11-12: Spring Conference (Mahoney Park)

May 9: May *Broadside* Deadline

Jun 14: 2013 *Bulletin* Deadline

Published in 2013?

As the year draws to a close, it's a good time for all of us to reflect on our own successes and those of our fellow members. The Guild would like to include your publishing credits on the website. It's a great way for people in and out of the state to see our literary talents, and it also reminds those having a down year that droughts are only temporary.

To update your publications, sign into the Nebraska Writers Guild website and update your list under the NWG Member Publications tab. Need a log-in? Request one and, Victorine will hook you up.

If you're not sure what information we need, refer to the "Published in..." pages on the guild website. Please remember to include only work that appeared in 2013, not work accepted this year for publication next year.

It's Not Too Early!

Members don't have to wait until the first of the year to renew their membership by paying their 2014 dues. The guild website—which accepts PayPal—makes it easy. Just visit the Guild's site at www.nebraskawriters.org and clicking on the "Renew" link on the Home Page.

If you're a more traditionally-minded member, dues can be sent to Secretary Annette Snyder at the return address on the back page of this issue. Dues are \$35 for members and associates, while students can be members for the discounted rate of \$20. Those of us with kids in college understand enrolling full-time in the nearest university to save \$15 on dues is not the wisest of financial decisions.



Notes From Your Staff

From the President (Lisa):

Happy Holiday wishes to everyone! We're about to embark on a new year, and there's a lot of exciting things happening for the Guild. First of all, we are going to have an option for electronic delivery of Guild publications, something that could potentially save a huge chunk of our budget for other things—like bringing additional speakers/agents/editors to future conferences. Please know if you prefer a print copy, we will gladly accommodate this, and additionally, with a members-only area of the website, we can have a full version available for you to print at any time, and you can always print the PDF version you receive in your email inbox.

Upcoming for the Spring 2014 Conference, we will have FOUR speakers. I'm excited about that, too. We didn't originally plan to have four, but when a possible speaker we'd given up on contacted us and agreed to come, we jumped at the opportunity! Harper Collins Voyager editor, Kelly O'Connor, will speak and take member pitches. Voyager represents speculative fiction (sci-fi, fantasy, horror). Pilar Alessandra, screenwriting coach, and author of *The Coffee Break Screenwriter*, will speak, along with author and founder of Funds for Writers, C. Hope Clarke, and Nebraska native, actress and author, Harley Jane Kozak. It looks to be an phenomenal conference!

I hope you'll take time to check out the website at Nebraskawriters.org on a regular basis. We're working hard to make it an interactive stopping point to provide information about writing craft, industry information, and of course the latest happenings with the Guild.

From the Secretary (Annette):

It was nice to meet so many of you at Fall Conference in Grand Island and I'm, like so many of you, anxiously waiting what lies in store in the Spring Conference at Mahoney State Park. Watch the next issue of the Broadside, blog and Face Book pages for information as that becomes available.

Beginning in January 2014, our blog takes on a new aspect. Moving from strictly NWG business and information posts, volunteers will sharing their

expertise. I know I look forward to learning from our NWG talent.

Also coming soon are membership renewals for 2014. It's a great time to be a Nebraska Writers Guild member—so much going on in our organization—so many new updates to our website and with the added involvement in our Face Book page, you just can't beat the membership benefits for the price. At the last Business meeting in Grand Island, the members voted to amend the Bylaws concerning membership rules for students. Please read the updated NWG Bylaws to make sure you renew under the proper category.

Extending our deepest sympathies, the NWG lost a Lifetime Member. Elizabeth King passed on September 17th at the age of 82. A wife, mother and poet, her family was grateful that, even through illness, she was able to complete her last publication, a collection of poetry. She leaves her family and friends a beautiful legacy of writing, teaching and devotion. With Elizabeth's passing, may we remember to take time to tell family and friends the importance they hold in our lives.

I look forward to visiting with everyone at Spring Conference or the next quarterly Board meeting in January. Watch the blog, our Facebook page and the Yahoo loop for details on dates.

From the Vice President (Doug):

Gary Vaynerchuk is co-founder and CEO of a social media brand consulting agency, video blogger, co-owner and director of operations of a wine retail store. He's also an author and public speaker on the subjects of social media, brand building and e-commerce. So what does a wine guy have to do with writers, other than the fact that many of our members (especially our Board members) are inordinately fond of wine?

He knows how to build a brand and a platform like no one you will ever meet.

Vaynerchuk hammers the importance of three C's: content, context, and connections. Content is obvious; create content that your audience wants. Context is the way you're publishing, distributing, and promoting your content. Connections are the people

that you engage, in person, online, and through other media.

To help you develop your three C's, we're going to begin posting more content on the Nebraska Writers Guild website. That content will cover everything from the craft of writing in its various disciplines to methods that you can use to build a better platform, connect with your audience, build your network, and realize your writing goals.

We're scouring the Internet for the best material: videos, blogs, articles, websites, and podcasts. We're going to gather information on writing groups in Nebraska and professionals who can assist you, such as editors, E-book formatters, and cover designers.

Here's where you come in: if you see a video, blog, article, website, or podcast that you think would benefit other Guild members, E-mail it to me at dougsasse@cox.net. If you know about an upcoming event at a local library, a book cover artist, editor, E-book formatter, et al, send me the information, too. We'll make all this valuable information available to you in our members' section on the website!

From the Membership Chair (Gina):

The Guild's relationship with Nebraska libraries has been on my mind. One project I would like to accomplish in the next year is to create some kind of communication to be sent to all Nebraska libraries to inform them about the Guild. The Guild offers content and connections to help writers achieve their goals. This is something libraries should be made aware of. Local writers in their area may come to them for information. Each library should have our business card, brochure, and information about what we offer. There also might be an opportunity for libraries to help us expand our links to Web content, as our board's hope is to create a central online learning repository.

There is also a possibility for libraries to become members of the Guild. Regardless of them being members, sharing information will be a very positive step. Especially if the Guild and the libraries could work together to create programs on writing, creating reading groups for our writers, speaking opportunities by our writers, and even learning opportunities about publishing. I am interested in other ideas about what needs to be communicated to libraries. At the 2013 NWG Fall Conference, Kathy Pieper offered to assist me with a project, so I hope to involve her in this one. Anyone else interested in participating please let me know. This is going to be a big project and I want to make sure I do it right.

The first part of 2013, I focused on the project of completing the membership survey. I've reviewed them and found several ideas I'm interested in pursuing, such as recognizing members for belonging to the guild for 5, 10, etc, years, or creating sponsors for new members. If volunteers are interested in working in the future on additional projects, please let me know.

All projects are goals to be worked on over time and any volunteer, or group of volunteers, can step up to help. I would be more than happy to be part of any way growth can come to the Guild.

From the Publications Chair (Greg):

Don't forget to send me items of interest to the members at mokuhina@gmail.com. A lot of material in the *Broadside* comes to me from the Board and other members, but I'd like to point out a couple of other ways that Guild members are passing along information to their fellow writers: the Guild's blog at nebraskawriters.wordpress.com and the NWG Group on Yahoo Groups. Those of you who are too "wired" to wait around for a quarterly newsletter will find more timely information at those two online sources.

2013 Nebraska Writers Guild Booth at the Nebraska State Fair Report

The Nebraska Writers Guild had another successful year at the Nebraska State Fair. When co-chairs Jeanette Bjerrum and Charlene Neely showed up on August 22nd to set up the booth, committee member Judy Rosenkotter and her husband Harold already had the back board up and all the supplies and books in the booth ready to be put out. They also showed up to help set tables and fill the backboard and racks with books. Many hands make quick work.

Nineteen members volunteered and covered thirty three shifts. They did a great job of promoting the Guild; handing out brochures, telling people about the advantages of membership, talking about the fall conference and other things guild members offer the community. They also sold their books, made many contacts for speaking engagements and on-line sales of e-books. A total of 57 books were sold at the fair.

More than 2,500 bookmarks were handed out to kids, teachers and librarians with the Guild website printed on the back. Over 200 of the nice new brochures were handed to prospective members (we have the names of over 50 people to watch for as new members and those are just the ones that we wrote in the book).

New member Samantha Hubbard stopped in to chat with those in the booth one day. So did Judy Lorenzen, Ben Wassinger, Johnny Gerhardt and her husband; as did several other members and past members whose names did not get recorded (it is sometimes mayhem). Many people stopped to let us know of the writers in their community or to see if someone they knew was in the Guild.

Other notable guests at the booth were: Florence Rosendahl, the subject of the *Night of Living Twisters*; Nellie Snyder Yost's niece; Bess Streeter Aldrich's niece; Wright Morris' cousin who now lives in Ed's Place from The Home Place and is working to get it on the Historic Register; Kathleene West's brother and sister-in-law, who came two days in order to bring me some pictures of Kathleene for the Heritage Room at the Bennett Martin Library in Lincoln; Dr. Lori, expert appraiser on Discovery's Auction Kings, syndicated columnist, art and antiques appraiser, put our the Nebraska Writers Guild brochure and our daily ditty on her face-book page; State Senator Linda Bratsch stopped to chat and said she heartily supports the humanities. And for all you screen-writers out there Thomas Stanton and Ben Sherman who are in Nebraska to make a film in Loup City, stopped and chatted a while. They were very interested in checking out the books our members are producing.

New member Jackie Wallick mentioned finding us at the State Fair while home on vacation from Alaska.

All in all, eleven days of promoting the Nebraska Writers Guild and its authors to the Nebraska State Fair and not a single hitch. Thank you to all the volunteers, the committee, the board who keep putting this on the schedule and the support of all members.

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Neely



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Recent Releases

Connie Crow's *Daughter of the Dragon*, a Romantic Suspense novel set in an 1867 mining town, has been made available by the publisher in e-book and audio on Amazon and iTunes.

Three for the Season, A collection of three novels of suspense, murder, and dark humor. By G.M. Barlean, is available on Amazon.com.

Recognitions

Dr. Jean Lukesh's new Nebraska biography book *Eagle of Delight: Portrait of the Plains Indian Girl in the White House* recently received three national/international book awards, including a 2013 Children's Literary Classics Lumen Award, a Pre-teen/Tween Historical Nonfiction Award, and a 2013 Moonbeam Children's Book Award. That increases the count of national book awards that Jean and Ron Lukesh's small press and books have received since 2011.

Farewells

Life Member Elizabeth King has passed away in September. More information about Elizabeth's association with the Guild and accomplishments is in Gina's Membership Chair report on Page 2.

The Guild is also sad to report that former member Kirsten Plettner passed away November 16th. Kirsten joined the Guild along with her daughter, Kira Fish, and was also an active participant in National Novel Writing Month. Kirsten graduated high school from Gering, Nebraska in 1979, and was a former Army linguist. She had a masters in educational psychology in addition to being fluent in several languages.