



Nebraska Writers Guild

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June, 2016

NWG Spring Conference Well Received

The 2016 Nebraska Writers Guild Spring Conference was held at the LaVista Conference Center on April 15-16th. Friday evening started off with snacks and close to twenty members reading selections from their current works. Saturday dawned with 97 participants eagerly anticipating a day full of information and networking. We had four presenters, Nina Amir, Chip MacGregor, Linda Comacho, and Chris Sloth. Both Chip MacGregor and Linda Comacho took pitches most of the day before and after their presentations.

Changes in the seating arrangement, a raffle instead of door prizes and many tables for our members to display and sell their books made for a very interesting day. Next year, the conference will be the weekend before Easter. It's a little earlier than normal but the timing has precedence. The board has taken the survey comments under advisement and hope to have a larger and more informative and fun conference next year. Attendance was down from last year's Spring Conference due to several members committed to other activities as noted on the Guild's message boards.

New this year was having corporate sponsorships. Thanks to Electric Moon Publishing and Concierge Marketing, both located in Omaha. Not to be outdone, Kearney had its share of sponsors with The Sequel Bookshop and SmallCakes, a cupcakery.

A Report from our Vice-President

It's been a very busy year for the Guild. We've been able to host a variety of different events in addition to our Spring Conference, which was wonderful. As Vice President, I've been busy garnering sponsors for the Guild and secured \$700 to go toward Guild events. Our sponsors include, Concierge Marketing, Electric Moon Publishing, The Sequel Bookshop, and SmallCakes Cupcakery. I believe this will really help to bring the Guild some great publicity.

We're in the midst of discussing how to gain more new members, specifically those of a younger demographic. To this end, we're alerting Nebraska campuses of our events and discussing student benefits to joining the Guild.

We've confirmed Aurora, for our Fall Conference and our speakers include two of our members, Victorine Lieske and Sabrina Sumsion. New York Times Best Selling author Taylor Stevens will also be speaking. She is an acclaimed author, with books written in over twenty languages and optioned for film by James Cameron's production company, Lightstorm Entertainment. We will also be skyping with agents Amanda Jain and Michelle Johnson from Inklings Literary Agency and Linda Camacho from Prospect Agency. Fall Conference is sure to be a success.

A Report from our President

What an amazing year so far! The new set up for Spring Conference rocked and the Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 sparkled as the centerpiece to our new raffle table. However, equally important was the gift bag of books from the University of Nebraska Press honoring their 75th Anniversary. They contacted us which has begun a valuable collaboration.

Through sponsorships, word of mouth, and our attendance at the Nebraska Library Association Conference last fall, several new collaborative projects have begun. What an exciting time for me as your New President. Details of these potential events are in the Board Minutes. Thanks for the trust extended the Board's way.

I do want to mention one other surprise contact. Backwaters Press, a small Nebraska Press specializing in Nebraska Poets, contacted us. They placed a free registration for our 2016 Fall Conference in the Grand Prize Basket for their online

scavenger hunt. How thoughtful. We matched it with a free member registration so that the recipient will be able to participate fully in the conference.

So many of you continue to offer support, encouragement, and praise. These are appreciated and help lift the load in this busy time of expansion. Also, your stepping forward to volunteer is unleashing greater potential for the Guild and expanded benefits for you, our members. What a privilege it is to get to know each of you. If we have not met, in person or online, I look forward to that opportunity.

Thanks for all you do.

Membership Spotlight

Jim Misko

Member, Jim Misko, author of the Platte River novel, *As All My Fathers Were*, has entered into a joint marketing effort with Nebraska Life Magazine. Ad's were placed in the magazine and all Nebraska newspapers through the Nebraska Press Association in Lincoln, offering Misko's novel and a years subscription to Nebraska Life for \$24, a normal \$44 value.

Orders are pouring in from all over the US as former Cornhuskers reunite with their state and Misko's latest novel. *As All My Fathers Were* has won gold at the Benjamin Franklin Awards for fiction; the Nebraska Book of the Year, and The Feathered Quill contest for adult fiction.

Carolyn R Scheidies

For over a decade I have written a regular column for the Kearney Hub. I now write a monthly column for the local Kearney Christian Women's Connection (KCWC) as well. I have done some intensive editing and one-on-one writing instruction. I continue to update books for which I've received back publishing rights. I also continue to market my books, especially once they've come out again updated and with new formats and/or covers.

Connie Spittler

My literary mystery with its tongue-in-cheek title *The Erotica Book Club for Nice Ladies* won 2nd prize in the Eudora Welty Memorial Fiction Competition at the National League of American Pen Women 2016 Bicentennial in Washington D.C. late April, up against all fiction, not just mysteries. The 4 color Spring issue of the NLAPW magazine features a great, long review of it by Margie Lukas (thank you, Margie) and information about the awards the book has garnered like selection as a finalist in the European Wishing Shelf Contest judged by book clubs in Great Britain and Sweden.

I was so sorry to miss the NWG Conference this year, but during that time frame I was invited and paid to be on a literary panel with best selling mystery author Susan Wittig Albert and dynamo author/publisher Deborah Winegarten. Held in Austin, TX, the Story Circle Network national conference drew 140 women writers and was a great success.

For those of you who know about my shoulder replacement in January, I'm doing fine now. In Feb, my husband had 2 emergency surgeries and multiple complications spending 5 weeks in the hospital but is home now and doing well. Needless to say, it's been a memorable year.

Nebraska Writers Guild Activities

The Nebraska Writers Guild has hit the airwaves. Promoting the Spring Conference on WOWT in Omaha was Wayne Anson and Sabrina Sumsion. Sabrina also promoted the guild on the NET radio program, Friday Live from the Mill in the Haymarket in Lincoln. Most recently Genevieve Randall interviewed Laura Madeline Wiseman, Mari Beck, and Lisa Kovanda concerning the upcoming Summer Poetry Retreat in Red Cloud. Thanks to all of our members who promote the guild and our activities.



Upcoming Events

Summer Poetry Retreat

June 10-12, 2016

The Willa Cather Second Home/Guest House, 541 North Seward Street, Red Cloud, Nebraska.
(Members and Non-Members allowed)

Price for registration varies by your choice for lodging. Please register as soon as possible as the retreat is limited to 10 participants.

Lodging - Willa Cather Second Home/Guest House

The Cather Second Home boasts six bedrooms and 2.5 baths. There are four bedrooms with a Queen bed, a room with two twin beds and Cather's own room with a full bed available. Each room has a comfortable chair for reading and relaxing, throw pillows, armoires or chests, and personal robes. 2.5 bathrooms are also available- one with a step in shower the other with a clawfoot tub and an additional shared half-bath on the second floor. A self-serve continental breakfast will be provided each day. The home is within walking distance of the Red Cloud Opera House, downtown restaurants and shops.

For more information contact:

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Write Across Nebraska

Write Across Nebraska - WAN - is a state wide event that happens each July. The purpose of WAN is to encourage all writers (not just members of the guild) to write. If anyone wants to get together and write, that is perfectly fine. Any person is welcome to invite others to meet and write. After WAN is over, we turn in our word counts (fill out the form at the bottom of the page) and tally them up. Our goal is to beat our word count each year.

This year it is scheduled for July 15th to the 17th. Any writer can participate. Nebraska Writers Guild member or not. Even if you don't live in Nebraska, join in the fun and submit your total words written after the event. The goal of WAN is to encourage people to write. On the weekend that WAN takes place, start writing as much as you can. On Sunday night, go to the Nebraska Writers Guild website and fill out the form to let us know how many words you were able to write.

You get the pleasure of knowing you've helped us beat our last year's word count. Not only that, but you will have written a first draft of your next novel, short story, or poem. And, if you write 1,000 words or more, you get to print off a neat certificate to hang on your wall. This can be printed from the NWG website. Last year, 2015, WAN writers came in at 67,964 words! This is our goal to beat in 2016.

2016 Fall Conference

Our 2016 Fall Conference will be held on October 7th and 8th in Aurora, NE. It will be at The Leadership Center, 2211 Q St (E Hwy 34), Aurora, Nebraska. Same location as last year. More details will be noted on the website and in the Broadside.

Nebraska Writers Guild
3121 "W" Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors
2016 Nebraska Writers Guild Spring conference

